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It must be noted that the review carried out by the mentioned departments, experts or organisations contributes to the overall quality of the report but does not necessarily imply their formal endorsement of the final report, which is the full responsibility of EUAA.





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Disclaimer

This report was written according to the EUAA COI Report Methodology (2019). The report is based on carefully selected sources of information. All sources used are referenced.

The information contained in this report has been researched, evaluated and analysed with utmost care. However, this document does not claim to be exhaustive. If a particular event, person or organisation is not mentioned in the report, this does not mean that the event has not taken place or that the person or organisation does not exist.

Furthermore, this report is not conclusive as to the determination or merit of any particular application for international protection. Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a particular legal position.

'Refugee', 'risk' and similar terminology are used as generic terminology and not in the legal sense as applied in the EU Asylum Acquis, the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.

Neither the EUAA, nor any person acting on its behalf, may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained in this report. On 19 January 2022 the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) became the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). All references to EASO, EASO products and bodies should be understood as references to the EUAA.

The drafting of this report was finalised on 3 February 2023. However, the reference period of the report is 1 July 2021 – 30 November 2022. Exception made for some crucial developments that took place in December 2022 and that are discussed in the [1. General description of the security situation in](#) Somalia, any other event taking place after 30 November 2022 is not included in this report. More information on the reference period for this report can be found in the methodology section of the Introduction.



Glossary and abbreviations

Term	Definition
AFRICOM	United States Africa Command
AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somalia
AS	Al-Shabaab, militant Islamist organisation in Somalia
ASWJ	Ahlu Sunna Wal-Jama'ah, the multi-clan armed Sufi group
ATMIS	African Transition Mission in Somalia
BRA	Benadir Regional Administration
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CFR	Council on Foreign Relations
Darwish, Dervish	State level armed forces/militias/paramilitary/special police
DSA	Detailed site assessment
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
FMS	Federal Member State
HSM	Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of Somalia
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IND	Immigration and Naturalization Directorate
ISIS or ISS	Islamic State in Somalia
JISA	Jubbaland Intelligence and Security Agency
JOC	Joint Operations Centre



Term	Definition
Macawisley	Communal militia
NISA	National Intelligence and Security Agency
PMPF	Puntland Maritime Police Force
PRADO	Public Register of Authentic identity and travel Documents Online
PRMN	Protection and Return Monitoring Network
PSF	Puntland Security Forces
SHDS	Somali Health and Demographic Survey
SNA	Somali National Army
SSC	Sool, Sanaag, and Cayn
TFG	Transitional Federal Government
UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia



Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide relevant context information in view of the assessment of international protection status determination, including refugee status and subsidiary protection. Among others, the report is intended to inform the update of EUAA's country guidance on Somalia (2023).

The report provides an update on and mapping of the security situation at both country and regional level, namely for the 18 administrative regions foreseen by the Somali provisional constitution as they existed before 1991.¹ The report builds upon preceding EASO COI reports, notably the [Somalia: Security Situation](#) from September 2021,² but also [Actors](#),³ [Targeted profiles](#)⁴ and [Key socio-economic indicators](#).⁵ They were published in the period July-September 2021.

The report provides an overview of the main security trends and conflict dynamics at country level in the reference period (1 July 2021 - 30 November 2022). Within this context it includes information on crucial developments that were already visible as of December 2022. Additionally, the report provides an update on the main changes regarding state and non-state (armed) actors and their control areas or presence during the same reporting period. For the full overview of these actors see the report on [Somalia: Actors](#).⁶ Finally, the report engages with conflict dynamics and security developments at the regional level. In this section, it provides information about incidents and their impact on civilian life, including conflict related humanitarian issues.

Methodology

Defining the terms of reference

The terms of reference of this report build on previous EUAA reporting on the same topic, internal and external consultations with experts, the EUAA network members, and draw from the relevant most recent literature on the topic. Additionally, national asylum authorities of EU+⁷ belonging to the Country Guidance Network on Somalia were consulted on the first draft of these terms of reference. Feedback and suggestions were then formulated into the final version that can be found in [Annex II](#).

The reference period for this report is 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, but also includes general information to provide background and contextual information to the current situation. Additionally, in an effort to ensure currency, some selected information about crucial security

¹ Somalia, Provisional Constitution, 1 August 2012, [url](#), Art. 49 (5), 72

² EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), pp. 24-26

³ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#)

⁴ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Targeted profiles, September 2021, [url](#)

⁵ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Key socio-economic indicators, September 2021, [url](#)

⁶ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#)

⁷ EU Member States plus Norway and Switzerland



developments, which were visible as of December 2022, was included in [Section 1. General description of the security situation in](#) Somalia. The drafting period finished on 13 January 2023, peer review occurred between 16-27 January 2023, and additional information was added to the report as a result of the quality review process during the review implementation up until 3 February 2023. The report was internally reviewed subsequently.

Collecting information and research challenges

This report is based on publicly available information in electronic and paper-based sources gathered through desk-based research.

Research on Somalia is challenging due to lack of reporting, security issues, and rapidly developing changes in the security situation. In some cases, sources were unwilling to go on record. This report also contains information from multiple oral sources with ground-level knowledge of the situation in Somalia who were interviewed or consulted specifically for this report. However, the number of experts contacted within this process was much higher than those who ultimately provided information authorised to be cited. This illustrates how challenging can be to obtain high-quality, up-to-date information in the Somalia context. For this reason, key statements from expert interviews conducted for the previous September 2021 Somalia Security Situation report were included due to their continued relevance.

Both interviewed and written sources used are referenced in the Annex I: [Bibliography](#). Wherever information could not be found within the timeframes for drafting this report, this is stated in the relevant section of the report.

Quality control

This report was written by the EUAA COI Sector and ACCORD in line with the EUAA COI Report Methodology (2019)⁸ and the EUAA COI Writing and Referencing Style Guide (2019).⁹

The report has been peer-reviewed by COI experts from Austria, Belgium, Germany and Sweden as well as internally by the EUAA COI Sector. All the comments from reviewers were reviewed and were implemented to the extent possible, under time constraints.

Sources

In accordance with EUAA COI methodology, a range of different published documentary sources have been consulted on relevant topics for this report. These include: academic publications, think tank reports, and specialised sources covering Somalia; COI reports by governments; information from civil society and NGOs; reports produced by various bodies of the United Nations; Somali and regionally-based media.

In addition to using publicly available documentary sources, multiple oral sources, including experts who had contributed to previous production on Somalia, were contacted for this

⁸ EUAA, Country of Origin Information (COI) Report Methodology, June 2019, [url](#)

⁹ EUAA, Writing and Referencing Guide for EUAA Country of Origin Information (COI) Reports, June 2019, [url](#)



report. The types of oral sources contacted include: scholars, international experts, Somali experts, development practitioners, and sources based in Somalia with reliable knowledge of the situation on the ground. Some sources who were interviewed chose to remain anonymous for security reasons. Sources were assessed for their background, publication history, reputability, and current ground-level knowledge. They were interviewed in the period December 2022 – January 2023. Where this report refers to interviews conducted for the previous September 2021 [EASO Somalia: Security Situation](#) report, this is indicated in the referenced footnote. All oral sources are described in the [Bibliography](#).

With regard to written sources of information, efforts were made to include Somali-language media sources in the research as well, including through the use of BBC Monitoring. Moreover, in some instances, reference was made to ‘Al-Shabaab-affiliated websites’ such as SomaliMemo or Calamada.¹⁰ Although these sources were not used excessively, sources associated with armed groups should always be assessed with caution. Efforts were made to corroborate such information or cross-check with other sources. With regard to media coverage of current developments in Somalia, it should generally be noted that in October 2022 the Somali government announced a crackdown on media outlets publishing alleged Al-Shabaab propaganda and threatened punishments as a result.¹¹ See [Annex I: Bibliography](#) for additional details.

Datasets

The report relies on different datasets with different topical/thematic focus.

a) ACLED data on security incidents and estimated fatality data

Reliable data and sources on security incident and casualty recording in Somalia was limited and difficult to obtain.

Among other sources, data on security incidents were drawn substantially from publicly available curated datasets from the organisation **Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED)**.¹² ACLED collects data on violent incidents in Somalia, among other countries, coding each incident with the time and place, type of violent incident, the parties involved and an estimate on the number of fatalities. It also provides relevant breakdowns per region, actor, type of incident, and period. The information is collected in a database that is accessible via registration, searchable and kept continuously up to date.

ACLED codes security incidents as follows: battles, explosions/remote violence, violence against civilians, riots, protests, and strategic developments.¹³ For the purpose of this report the following type of events were included in the quantitative analysis and graphs of the incidents: **battles, explosions/remote violence**, and **violence against civilians**. Additionally, ACLED codes actors involved in security incidents as follows: Actor1 is the ‘named actor involved in the event’ and Actor2 is the ‘named actor involved in the event, while ‘[i]n most

¹⁰ Security Council Report, November 2022 Monthly Forecast – Africa – Somalia, 31 October 2022, [url](#)

¹¹ VOA, Somalia Warns Media Not to Publish Al-Shabab Propaganda, 8 October 2022, [url](#)

¹² ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, as of 30 June 2021, [url](#)

¹³ ACLED, ACLED Codebook, January 2021, [url](#), pp. 7-14

cases, an event requires two actors, noted in columns 'ACTOR1' and 'ACTOR2'. However, event types 'Explosions/Remote violence', 'Riots', 'Protests', and 'Strategic developments' can include 'one-sided events'.¹⁴

Characteristics and potential limits for COI use of ACLED data are:

1. Data primarily come from secondary sources such as media reports. Lack of or under-reporting might critically affect the depiction and the assessment of the situation on the ground.
2. ACLED's database only provides figures of deaths (fatalities) per event, not of injured persons or other casualties.
3. ACLED's database does not distinguish between civilian and non-civilian fatalities.
4. All ACLED fatality figures provided in this EUAA COI report are estimates based on ACLED's methodology. In ACLED's codebook their methodology is explained.¹⁵ According to its 2020 Fatality methodology, incidents of which the original source has reported that they had led to an unknown number of fatalities, ACLED codes the number of fatalities as 10 in 'an active warzone' or 'a significant attack outside of a warzone', and as 3 in 'an attack of more limited scope, in an active warzone' or 'an attack outside of a warzone'.¹⁶ This method may have an impact on overall numbers of fatalities reported/estimated.

When focusing on the **involvement** of specific actors within certain regions, the drafters based their analysis on all those incidents, where ACLED coded the relevant actor either as 'Actor1' or as 'Actor2'. This approach aims to illustrate the general level of involvement of the respective actors in the conflict without distinguishing between Actor1 and Actor2, as these categories, according to ACLED's methodology, do not indicate any differentiation in terms of content/semantics.

In various instances, particularly at general country level, whenever other sources on security incidents were available over the reference period, ACLED's data have been corroborated/contrasted with other data.

b) PRMN data on displacements

In terms of UNHCR displacement figures, the drafters worked with the publicly available data file. Regarding the specific date, the data file contains a 'Month End' (e.g. 31/07/2021) column, which was recoded by the drafters into multiple columns (Day; Month; Year). The figures presented comprises the data coded as Month 7/Year 2021 or subsequent. In some regions these figures differed from those presented in the interactive dashboard available at UNHCR's Operational Data Portal.

c) NRC data on evictions

In terms of data on evictions, the drafters relied on data available via NRC's Eviction Information Portal. NRC defines 'forced evictions' as the 'removal against their will of people

¹⁴ ACLED, Acled Codebook, January 2021, [url](#), pp. 5, 18

¹⁵ ACLED, ACLED Codebook, January 2021, [url](#), pp. 7-14

¹⁶ ACLED, FAQs: ACLED Fatality Methodology, 2020, [url](#), p. 1

from their homes and/or land which they occupy, without any form of legal or other protection' (NRC, 1 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1). The available datasets included in addition to data on forced evictions, data on 'eviction preventions' as well as on 'lawful' evictions (not coded as 'forced'). The latter two categories were filtered out, when figures on forced evictions were provided within the report at hand.

Illustrative security incidents

Based on UN data, ACLED data and local media consulted, the drafters conducted a selection of illustrative incidents per each administrative region (18 in total). This selection is not exhaustive and is meant to show examples of the nature and the intensity of the security incidents that have affected the civilian population during the reference period. When ACLED data were used for illustrative incidents, where possible, efforts were made within time constraints to identify the original source of the information referenced in ACLED's raw data files.

Structure and use of the report

The report is divided into two parts: Section [1. General description of the security situation in Somalia](#) and Section [2. Regional security situation and trends](#).

- In Section 1, the report provides an update on main security and political developments that took place in Somalia during the reference period (July 2021 – November 2022), as well as selected additional information on crucial visible developments as of December 2022. This section includes charts and analysis of aggregate data at country level about security incidents, conflict related displacement, and other impacts on civilians life, as well as a section on checkpoints and road security.
- With section 1.5., provides a brief overview of ID documents, their issuance, and use for accessing and leaving Somalia, including Somaliland, both by land and by air.
- In Section 2, the report provides an update on conflict dynamics, security trends and incidents at the regional level, for the 18 administrative regions foreseen by the Somali provisional constitution^{17, 18}.

Note on transliteration

A national orthography for the Somali language was codified relatively late by adopting a Latin script (21 October 1972). Nevertheless, even today, Somali lacks a commonly applied and binding orthography.

¹⁷ Somalia, Provisional Constitution, 1 August 2012, [url](#), art. 49 (5), 72

¹⁸ Please note that this partition, besides being the official partition for the Federal Government of Somalia, is widely used by national and international bodies, organisations, research institutes, and NGOs.

In this report, Somali-language names for places, clans and personal names usually follow Somali orthography: 'long vowels are indicated by doubling them', as in *Darood* or *Abbaan*, 'the Latin 'c' stands for a sound close to the Arabic ع (ayn), while 'x' denotes the strongly aspirated ح (ha)'.¹⁹ However, given the fact that other sources adopt different conventions, the reader will sometimes find other forms of place, clan, and personal names in the text, including where direct citations are used or in references.

Somalis, notably Somali men, are frequently better known by their nicknames than by their formal names. The same applies to public figures and politicians mentioned in the text, whose nickname is provided in quotation marks, such as in 'better known' or 'also known' as 'Qoor Qoor'.

Clan maps

For clan maps please refer to the EASO COI report [Somalia: Security Situation](#) from September 2021.²⁰

¹⁹ Hoehne M., *Between Somaliland and Puntland*, 2015, [url](#), p. 7

²⁰ EASO, *Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Security Situation*, September 2021, [url](#), pp. 17-19

Map of Somalia



Map No. 3690 Rev. 10 UNITED NATIONS
December 2011

Department of Field Support
Cartographic Section

Map 1. Map of Somalia²¹

²¹ UN, Somalia, December 2011, [url](#)



1. General description of the security situation in Somalia

1.1. Recent political and security developments

This report updates and builds upon the previous [EASO COI Report on Somalia: Security Situation](#) (September 2021).²² Ample reference is also made to other reports of the same package that provide for further context information and details, such as the [EASO COI report on Somalia: Actors](#) (July 2021),²³ and the [EASO COI report on Somalia: Targeted profiles](#) (September 2021).²⁴

According to various UN Secretary General's situation reports, covering the period May 2021 - August 2022, the security situation in the country 'remained volatile'.²⁵ In the course of 2021 Somalia experienced a monthly average of 265 security incidents,²⁶ 236 during the first four months of 2022,²⁷ and 227 in the period May – July 2022.²⁸ Based on ACLED data, in the period January – November 2022, the monthly average of security incidents recorded in the country – while considering only battles, explosions/remote violence and violence against civilians - was about 239.²⁹ For further details see section on [Methodology](#) and [1.4](#) Recent security incidents and trends.

Against this backdrop, as of August 2022, a joint government - Macawisley militia military offensive was launched against Al-Shabaab. The military campaign started in Hiraan, at the beginning of that month. Originally it was a targeted operation with the objective to liberate the main supply route between Mataban and Beletweyne. Once Danab forces and local clan militias had successfully pushed-back Al-Shabaab,³⁰ the operation morphed into a popular uprising.³¹ Macawisley were supported by the Somali National Army (SNA), the African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS, which is the reconfiguration of the previous AMISOM - African Union Mission in Somalia), as well as US³² and Turkish drones³³. Special forces Danab

²² EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), pp. 24-26

²³ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), pp. 58-67

²⁴ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Targeted profiles, September 2021, [url](#)

²⁵ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 19; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 13; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 15

²⁶ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 19

²⁷ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 13

²⁸ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 15

²⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, as of 30 November 2022, [url](#)

³⁰ Houreld, K., Uprising by Somali clans puts al-Qaeda-linked militants on the defensive, The Washington Post, 14 December 2022, [url](#)

³¹ Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 454, 21 September 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1; Hiraan Online, The Battle of Hiiraan: Birthplace of an Organic "Ma'awisley" Movement to Uproot Al-Shabaab from Somalia, 10 October 2022, [url](#)

³² Weiss, C., Shabaab continues to lose ground in central Somalia, Long War Journal, 27 September 2022, [url](#);

Hochet-Bodin, N., Somalia: Breakthrough in the war against Al-Shabab, Le Monde, 20 November 2022, [url](#)

³³ VOA, Somalia Military Rebuilding Shows Signs of Improvement, 30 November 2022, [url](#); Houreld, K., Uprising by Somali clans puts al-Qaeda-linked militants on the defensive, The Washington Post, 14 December 2022, [url](#);

Hochet-Bodin, N., Somalia: Breakthrough in the war against Al-Shabab, Le Monde, 20 November 2022, [url](#)



and Gorgor commandos were also intensively involved in the operations.³⁴ For details about Al-Shabaab, the Macawisley militia and other armed actors see sections below [1.3.1](#) Al-Shabaab controlled-areas, presence, and influence, [1.3.3](#) Other armed actors, as well as the remainder of this report for regional details.

Reportedly, in retaliation to the offensive,³⁵ in the period August-November 2022, Al-Shabaab staged attacks in various locations in South Central Somalia, such as, among others: by the end of August 2022, attacks on civilians were reported in the Hiraan and Galgaduud regions;³⁶ on 3 October 2022 Al-Shabaab attacked the local government headquarters in Beletweyne³⁷ and on 23 October the Hotel Tawakal in Kismayo;³⁸ other attacks took place in Mogadishu: on 20 August at Hayat Hotel,³⁹ on 29 October 2022 at the Ministry of Education,⁴⁰ on 27 November 2022 at Villa Rosa (Rays) Hotel.⁴¹ For further information see regional chapters in the remainder of this report.

During the election period that led first to the composition of the House of the People, between November 2021⁴² and April 2022,⁴³ and then to the Presidential Election on 15 May 2022,⁴⁴ Al-Shabaab also targeted civilians associated with the electoral process, including electoral delegates, candidates, government authorities, government officials, and clan elders. Among others, the group resorted to indiscriminate methods, such as improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and suicide attacks, 'which resulted in a high civilian casualty toll'.⁴⁵ Within this context, on 23 March 2022, Al-Shabaab 'mounted one of its deadliest attack' in Beledweyne,⁴⁶ resulting in 48 deaths and more than 150 casualties, including 'vocal female parliamentarian Amina Mohamed Abdi'.⁴⁷ For further information on types of security incidents and forms of indiscriminate violence, such as IEDs and mortar attacks, see section [1.4](#) Recent security incidents and trends, as well as the remainder of this report on regional details.

Moreover, on the backdrop of the continued frictions between Somaliland and Puntland (see section [1.2](#) Layers of conflict), in December 2022, a series of violent confrontations broke out in Las Anod (Sool region).⁴⁸ Reportedly, civilians protested against the Somaliland administration accused of 'instigating political assassinations, usually targeting people believed to be against the [Somaliland] government'.⁴⁹ As a result, after a week of violent protests, more than 40 people were killed, mostly civilians, but also members of the

³⁴ VOA, Somalia Military Rebuilding Shows Signs of Improvement, 30 November 2022, [url](#)

³⁵ VOA, Al-Shabab Kills 21 in Somalia's Hiran Province, 3 September 2022, [url](#); DW, Somalia continues offensive against al-Shabab, 6 October 2022, [url](#); BBC News, Al-Shabab: Are militant attacks on the rise in Somalia?, 2 November 2022, [url](#)

³⁶ VOA, Al-Shabab Kills 21 in Somalia's Hiran Province, 3 September 2022, [url](#);

³⁷ VOA, At Least 20 Killed in Central Somalia Blasts, 3 October 2022, [url](#)

³⁸ Al Jazeera, Attack on hotel in Somalia's Kismayo ends with 9 civilians dead, 23 October 2022, [url](#); Hochet-Bodin, N., Somalia: Breakthrough in the war against Al-Shabab, Le Monde, 20 November 2022, [url](#)

³⁹ BBC News, Somalia hotel siege: More than 20 die in al-Shabab attack, 21 August 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁰ Reuters, Car bombs at busy Somalia market intersection killed at least 100, president says, 31 October 2022, [url](#)

⁴¹ BBC News, Somalia Villa Rays attack: Siege ends leaving eight civilians dead, 28 November 2022, [url](#)

⁴² XinhuaNet, Somalia begins elections for Lower House of Parliament, 1 November 2021, [url](#)

⁴³ VOA, New Members of Somalia's Parliament Sworn In, 14 April 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁴ BBC News, Somalia's new president elected by 327 people, 15 May 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁵ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 116

⁴⁶ VOA, Al-Shabab Increases Attacks as Elections Drag in Somalia, 25 March 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁷ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 116

⁴⁸ Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 489, 4 January 2023, source requiring registration, p. 1

⁴⁹ Garowe Online, More than 20 'pro-greater Somalia' protesters killed in Lasanod, 31 December 2022, [url](#)

Somaliland security forces who reportedly ‘acted disproportionately and deployed lethal force unnecessarily’.⁵⁰ The clan factor of the protest was put forward by various sources that reported about the killing of members of the Dhulbahante clan,⁵¹ which is the most populous one in Las Anod.⁵² For more details see section [1.2](#) Layers of conflict and referenced sources there.

The main political developments during the reference period included, on 15 May 2022, the election of Hassan Sheikh Mohamud (HSM) as the new president of Somalia by the Somali parliament.⁵³ The election had been delayed for over a year. After three rounds of voting, he received 214 votes against his main contender, Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed (Farmaajo), the former president, who had received 110.⁵⁴

On 7 August 2022, the Parliament endorsed the new Somali Government, comprising 26 Ministers, 24 State Ministers and 25 Deputy Ministers.⁵⁵ Mukhtar “Abu Mansur” Robow, former deputy leader of Al-Shabaab, was appointed Minister of Endowment, Religious Affairs and Counter-terrorism Ideology, as a strategy to prevent the youth from joining Al-Shabaab.⁵⁶ For further details about Robow see [EASO COI Report on Somalia: Actors](#).⁵⁷

HSM announced the adoption of a (new) determined approach towards fighting Al-Shabaab.⁵⁸ Often on the backdrop of major security incidents (see above), he claimed this new course in a series of media messages: on 23 June 2022, in the aftermath of the Al-Shabaab attack at Baxdo, HSM stated that the “days of terrorists hiding in our country are coming to an end”;⁵⁹ on 23 August 2022, in the aftermath of the Hayat Hotel attack, he called for a “total war”;⁶⁰ on 29 October 2022, in the aftermath of the attack at the Ministry of Education, he “promised a relentless war against Al-Shabaab”;⁶¹ and on 15 November 2022, he spoke about a “all-out-war” against the militant group.⁶² See below and the remainder of this report for further details about these major security incidents.

At the same time, this new approach towards degrading Al-Shabaab was intended to rest on a multifaced strategy: military, ideological/religious, and economic/financial.⁶³

⁵⁰ Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 489, 4 January 2023, source requiring registration, p. 1

⁵¹ Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 489, 4 January 2023, source requiring registration, p. 1; Horn Observer, Somaliland forces shoot and kill outraged ‘pro-Somalia’ civilian protesters in Lasanod, 30 December 2022, [url](#); Somali Dispatch, Stranger than fiction: On the Lasanod Massacre!, 4 January 2023, [url](#)

⁵² EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Security situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 132; Somali Dispatch, Stranger than fiction: On the Lasanod Massacre!, 4 January 2023, [url](#)

⁵³ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 2

⁵⁴ DW, Somalia: Hassan Sheikh Mohamud elected president, 15 May 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁵ Horn Diplomat, Somalia’s Prime Minister announces new cabinet, 2 August 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁶ The EastAfrican, Somalia PM names ex-Shabaab leader Mukhtar Robow to Cabinet, 2 August 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁷ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), p. 83

⁵⁸ Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 454, 21 September 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1; Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 471, 4 November 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1

⁵⁹ Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 416, 30 June 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1

⁶⁰ VOA, Somalia’s President Vows ‘Total War’ Against al-Shabab, 24 August 2022, [url](#)

⁶¹ The EastAfrican, Somali President Mohamud promises relentless war on Shabaab, 2 November 2022, [url](#)

⁶² VOA, Somalia’s President Vows to Continue War on Al-Shabab, 15 November 2022, [url](#)

⁶³ CSIS, Strengthening Somalia’s Security: A Conversation with H.E. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, 16 September 2022, [url](#); Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 454, 21 September 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1

Finally, from a humanitarian point of view, and as indicated in a joint communiqué released by the UN system in Somalia at the beginning of December 2022, the humanitarian situation in the country remained ‘extremely serious’ during the reference period. Famine, while averted for the time being, remained a ‘strong’ forecasted possibility in the country for the period April–June 2023, and as a consequence of the ‘longest and most severe drought in Somalia’s recent history’. In the course of 2022, the number of people affected by the drought in Somalia more than doubled, passing from 3.2 million in January to 7.8 million in October 2022. Over the same period displacement induced by drought increased more than five times, affecting almost 1.3 million people.⁶⁴

Against this backdrop, Al-Shabaab continued to turn the drought crisis to its advantage in order to exert more influence over the population by imposing blockades on businesses, such as in Jowhar and Kismayo at the beginning of 2022.⁶⁵ During the same period other government-controlled towns were affected by such blockades,⁶⁶ including Dinsor.⁶⁷ A similar strategy was noted by the UN Panel of Experts on Somalia in the previous reporting period. In the course of 2021 Al-Shabaab maintained a blockade on the movement of goods in various locations notably in the Bay, Bakool⁶⁸ and Gedo regions⁶⁹. Within this context abductions, detentions and executions were instrumental towards enforcing such blockades or the ban on commercialisation of khat and charcoal, as well as towards achieving the group’s territorial goals.⁷⁰ For further details see section [1.4.3 Other impacts on civilian life](#).

1.2. Layers of conflict

Main conflict dynamics in Somalia can be presented for analytical purposes in different layers, which can be described as follows:

The Al-Shabaab – anti-Al-Shabaab conflict. According to the Rule of Law in Armed Conflicts project (RULAC),⁷¹ the Somali government is a party to a non-international armed conflict with Al-Shabaab.⁷² During the reference period this was the main conflict driver in Somalia, with most of the security incidents perpetrated by Al-Shabaab, primarily as hit-and-run attacks targeting Somali security forces and ATMIS/AMISOM, and often involving improvised explosive devices.⁷³ According to the UN Panel of Experts on Somalia the militant group’s ability to carry out asymmetric attacks was not significantly degraded during the reference

⁶⁴ UNICEF, The humanitarian situation in Somalia remains extremely serious: assistance must be sustained and improved to continue to prevent famine, 13 December 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁵ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 119

⁶⁶ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 115

⁶⁷ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 117

⁶⁸ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2021/849, 6 October 2021, [url](#), p. 85, para. 21

⁶⁹ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2021/849, 6 October 2021, [url](#), para. 13, 21

⁷⁰ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2021/849, 6 October 2021, [url](#), para. 31

⁷¹ RULAC is a project of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights that identifies and classifies situations of armed conflict, providing an independent and impartial analysis of conflicts and applicable international law. RULAC, About RULAC, n.d., [url](#)

⁷² RULAC, Non-international armed conflict in Somalia, 10 November 2022, [url](#)

⁷³ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 19; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 13; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 15

period of their latest report (16 December 2021 – 7 September 2022).⁷⁴ Al-Shabaab is designated as a terrorist group by the UK⁷⁵ and the US.⁷⁶ For main developments during the reference period about Al-Shabaab's control areas and influence see section below [1.3.1 Al-Shabaab controlled-areas, presence, and influence](#). The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), the Federal Member States (FMS), clan militias, as well as other international actors, such as Ethiopia, Kenya, the US, and ATMIS, are all engaged, although in various degrees and forms, in the conflict against the militant al-Qaeda affiliated organisation.⁷⁷ For details about all these actors, and their military forces, see main developments during the reference period in the relevant chapter below [1.3.3 Other armed actors](#), as well as the [EASO COI report on Somalia: Actors](#) (July 2021).⁷⁸ For (anti) Al-Shabaab conflict dynamics and their reverberations at regional level, please see the remainder of this report [2. Regional security situation and trends](#).

The inter- and intra-clan rivalries. Another major source of conflict that pervades Somali society is constituted by clan rivalries and competitions over political power and scarce resources.⁷⁹ The UN Panel of Experts on Somalia, in its October 2021 report, noted an 'increasing level of armed clan violence closely associated to competition over resources and power struggles'.⁸⁰ Somalia's political and cultural landscape is deeply entrenched in the clan system as well as in racial discriminations.⁸¹ The Somali society is divided into various clan families - (Dir/Isaaq, Darood, Hawiye, Rahanweyn or Digil-Mirifle), each one of them comprising several clans, sub-clans, and sub-sub clans – as well as minority clans, casted communities, and ethnic minorities.⁸² Somali clans are distributed across the Somali national territory – as well as beyond it - and represent 'political-territorial-military' and 'identity' units.⁸³ Within this context, clans often compete with each other, as well as against other actors such as the FGS or the FMS, for political, resource and territorial control, while resorting to a system of 'tactical clan support'⁸⁴ and instrumental alliances.⁸⁵ For a general overview of the clan system in Somalia see chapter 3 Clans of the [EASO COI report on Somalia: Actors](#) (July 2021).⁸⁶ For additional details about the treatment of clan minorities and clan revenge dynamics see chapter '4 Minorities' and Chapter '5 Individuals involved in blood feuds/clan disputes' of the

⁷⁴ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 8

⁷⁵ UK, Home Office, Proscribed terrorist groups or organisations, [Updated] 23 April 2021, [url](#)

⁷⁶ USDOS, Designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations, n.d., [url](#)

⁷⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, as of 30 November 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁸ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#)

⁷⁹ Baadiyow, A. A., Somali Elite Political Culture: Conceptions, Structures, and Historical Evolution, 28 January 2021, [url](#)

⁸⁰ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2021/849, 6 October 2021, [url](#), para. 31

⁸¹ Eno M.A and Kusow A. M., Racial and Cast Prejudice in Somalia, 2014, [url](#), pp. 91-93

⁸² ACCORD, Clans in Somalia – Report on a lecture by Joakim Gundel, COI Workshop Vienna, 15 May 2009 (Revised Edition), 2009, [url](#), pp. 11-20; EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), pp. 45-48

⁸³ de Waal A., The Prairie Fire that Burned Mogadishu: The Logic of Clan Formation in Somalia, December 2018, [url](#), pp. 1-2, see also pp. 3, 5, 6, 15, 18, 25; See also: ACCORD, Clans in Somalia – Report on a lecture by Joakim Gundel, COI Workshop Vienna, 15 May 2009 (Revised Edition), 2009, [url](#), p. 8

⁸⁴ LSE, Somalia's Politics: The Usual Business? A Synthesis Paper of the Conflict Research Programme, June 2021, [url](#), pp. 32, 34

⁸⁵ de Waal A., The Prairie Fire that Burned Mogadishu: The Logic of Clan Formation in Somalia, December 2018, [url](#), pp. 6, 10, 13-19, 30

⁸⁶ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), pp. 45-56

[EASO COI report on Somalia: Targeted profiles](#) (August 2021).⁸⁷ For clan conflict dynamics and their reverberations at regional level during the reference period (July 2021 – November 2022), please see the remainder of this report [2. Regional security situation and trends](#).

The Anti-ISIS Conflict. The Islamic State in Somalia (ISIS-Somalia or ISS) is a jihadist Islamist group with affiliation to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria/the Levant (ISIS/ISIL/Daesh),⁸⁸ and with base in Puntland.⁸⁹ ISIS-Somalia is described ‘largely [as] a Puntland group’,⁹⁰ however, during the reference period it carried out attacks mostly in Mogadishu (Benadir), along with a few others that took place in Lower Shabelle (South West) and Bari region (Puntland).⁹¹ Intermittently Al-Shabaab and ISIS-Somalia have fought against each other,⁹² causing rival clashes and assassinations between the groups.⁹³ For an overview about ISIS-Somalia see chapter 6 Islamic State in Somalia of the [EASO COI report on Somalia: Actors](#) (July 2021).⁹⁴ For (anti) ISIS-Somalia conflict dynamics and their reverberation at regional level please see the remainder of this report [2. Regional security situation and trends](#).

Puntland versus Somaliland. Among other territorial disputes across Somalia, Puntland and Somaliland contend over control of the Sool and Sanaag regions - that border the two state administrations - as well as the area of Ayn, part of Togdheer region.⁹⁵ Sool and Sanaag fall within Somaliland’s boundaries, as per the old Anglo-Italian colonial border and protocol (1894), and as put forward by the Somaliland government. At the same time the two dominant clans in the area (Warsangeli and Dhulbahante) belong to the same Darood/Harti clan family for which Puntland constitutes the core and institutional ‘home’.⁹⁶ Tensions between the two administrations built up along the border areas on various occasions during the reference period: in August 2022 in the Bocame district in the Sool region,⁹⁷ in November 2022 in Qararo⁹⁸ and December 2022 in and around Buhodle,⁹⁹ both towns in the Togdheer region. For regional details about this conflict see the remainder of this report, sections on Sool, Sanaag, and Togdheer. For additional details at federal member state level about Puntland and Somaliland and the contested areas see sections 7.6 and 7.7 of the [EASO COI report on](#)

⁸⁷ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Targeted profiles, September 2021, [url](#)

⁸⁸ Weiss, C., Reigniting the Rivalry: The Islamic State in Somalia vs. al-Shabaab, CTC Sentinel, April 2019, [url](#), pp. 29, 32

⁸⁹ EIP, The Islamic State in East Africa, September 2018, [url](#), p. 1, 14-17

⁹⁰ EIP, The Islamic State in East Africa, September 2018, [url](#), p. 18

⁹¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, as of 30 November 2022, [url](#)

⁹² CFR, Al-Shabaab, 19 May 2021, [url](#)

⁹³ Weiss, C., Reigniting the Rivalry: The Islamic State in Somalia vs. al-Shabaab, CTC Sentinel, April 2019, [url](#), pp. 29, 32

⁹⁴ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), pp. 74-77

⁹⁵ ISS, The various layers to the Somaliland-Puntland discord, 9 December 2019, [url](#)

⁹⁶ ISS, Overlapping claims by Somaliland and Puntland – The case of Sool and Sanaag, November 2019, East Africa Report No. 27, [url](#), pp. 3-5; Hoehne M., Between Somaliland and Puntland, 2015, [url](#), pp. 19-21, 36

⁹⁷ Shabelle Media Network, A fresh Somaliland-Puntland tension builds up in Sool, 4 August 2022, [url](#); Somali Dispatch, Tensions between Somaliland and Puntland rise in district of Sool region, 5 August 2022, [url](#)

⁹⁸ Somali Guardian, At least two killed as fighting erupts between Somaliland, Puntland forces, 22 November 2022, [url](#)

⁹⁹ Facility for Talo Leadership, Tension as Somaliland and Puntland Troops Gather at the Border, 9 December 2022, [url](#)

[Somalia: Actors](#) (July 2021),¹⁰⁰ as well as the remainder of this report [2. Regional security situation and trends](#).

Crime. Another major source of insecurity in Somalia is criminality in general as ‘criminality is pervasive throughout the country’.¹⁰¹ As per the Africa Organised Crime Index, at the end of 2021, Somalia ranked 18th out of 54 African countries in terms of criminality (a combination of criminal market and criminal actors indicators),¹⁰² while improving its previous ranking,¹⁰³ which was 4th in 2019.¹⁰⁴ Still, in terms of rule of law Somalia remained the worst performing country in the world.¹⁰⁵ At the same time the country’s position in terms of resilience remained basically unvaried, 53th out of 54 African countries,¹⁰⁶ it was 54th in 2019.¹⁰⁷ Al-Shabaab was not always responsible for the attacks, targeted killings and executions in Somalia, which can be politically (or economically) motivated or related to other conflicts or crimes.¹⁰⁸ Moreover, against this backdrop, during the reference period, a rising issue in the Somali context was the drifting of many Somali youth towards organised criminal gangs, especially in the Somali cities,¹⁰⁹ notably in Mogadishu.¹¹⁰ In the capital town the reprisal against these gangs, such as Ciyaal Weero, which is one of the most dreaded, also lead to extrajudicial killings.¹¹¹

Other layers. Other confrontations which are more of a political nature and which do not necessarily develop into armed confrontations include: (1) Tensions between the FGS and the Federal Member States over the establishment of an effective federal system;¹¹² reportedly, the election of HSM as new president of Somalia ‘opened the way for improved relations’ between the two level of governments,¹¹³ and a National Consultative Council was convened already in June 2022;¹¹⁴ however tensions manifested again in December 2022,¹¹⁵ with Puntland’s President Deni often acting as catalyst.¹¹⁶ (2) The intra-FMS tensions and

¹⁰⁰ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), pp. 101-116

¹⁰¹ OSAC, Country Security Report Somalia, 19 October 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰² ENACT, Africa Organised Crime Index 2021, Evolution of crime in a Covid world, 2021, [url](#), p. 141

¹⁰³ ENACT, Africa Organised Crime Index 2021, Evolution of crime in a Covid world, 2021, [url](#), pp. 48-49

¹⁰⁴ ENACT, Africa Organised Crime Index - Somalia, 2019, [url](#)

¹⁰⁵ ENACT, Africa Organised Crime Index - Somalia, 2021, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶ ENACT, Africa Organised Crime Index 2021, Evolution of crime in a Covid world, 2021, [url](#), pp. 150-151

¹⁰⁷ ENACT, Africa Organised Crime Index - Somalia, 2019, [url](#)

¹⁰⁸ Belgium, CGRS-CEDOCA, SOMALIË Veiligheidssituatie in Mogadishu [Somalia Security Situation in Mogadishu], 29 June 2021, [url](#), p. 19

¹⁰⁹ Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 444, 29 August 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1

¹¹⁰ Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 431, 27 July 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1; Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 270, 16 November 2021, source requiring registration, p. 1

¹¹¹ Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 452, 16 September 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1; SPA, Governance Brief 19, The Rise of Youth Gangs (Ciyaal Weero) in Mogadishu, October 2022, [url](#)

¹¹² SDP, Options for allocating powers in Somalia’s federal system, 9 September 2022, [url](#), pp. 1-3; Dahir, A. and Yassin Sheikh Ali, A., Federalism in post-conflict Somalia: A critical review of its reception and governance challenges, 8 November 2021, [url](#), pp. 1, 6-7, 10; Daily Sabah, Is there an antidote for Somalia’s Federalism?, 23 August 2022, [url](#)

¹¹³ GIS, The Somali president’s ‘mission impossible’, 19 August 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁴ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 7

¹¹⁵ Somali Guardian, Four state leaders consider forming alliance against Somalia’s president, 12 December 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁶ Garowe Online, Deni and others owe Somalia a duty to cooperate against Al-Shabaab, 11 December 2022, [url](#); Garowe Online, Somalia: Deni making alliance to undermine Hassan Sheikh’s administration, 10 October 2022, [url](#); Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 423, 12 July 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1

governance dynamics.¹¹⁷ (3) The FGS versus Somaliland tensions, over its political status and international recognition, about which talks have stalled for years.¹¹⁸ (4) Regional dynamics and role of external actors, notably Ethiopia¹¹⁹ and Kenya,¹²⁰ but also Turkey,¹²¹ Qatar, and UAE among others.¹²² For the full overview about these other layers see the report on [Somalia: Actors](#) (July 2021), section on Country Background and chapter 7 on Federal Member States and Somaliland,¹²³ as well as the previous [EASO COI Report on Somalia: Security Situation](#) (September 2021),¹²⁴ and the remainder of this report [2. Regional security situation and trends](#).

1.3. Armed actors

1.3.1. Al-Shabaab controlled-areas, presence, and influence

Al-Shabaab is Somalia's 'armed Islamist extremist and self-declared al-Qaeda affiliate organisation'.¹²⁵ As indicated by the UN Panel of Experts on Somalia, in its October 2022 report, 'the group maintains a presence and the capacity to conduct operations throughout most of Somalia, including Mogadishu', while its 'sphere of influence extends beyond areas it physically controls'.¹²⁶ According to the CFR backgrounder, the group's overall goal remains the establishment of an Islamic State in Somalia, and its main unifying idea is the "opposition to the Western-backed government."¹²⁷

In the reference period, and reportedly as a consequence of the pull-out of the US troops (January 2021) - even though it was temporary - Al-Shabaab had increased in size, in financial resources, and in territorial control.¹²⁸ According to the Africa Centre for Strategic Studies in the course of 2021 Somalia has experienced a 17-percent increase in violent activity involving Al-Shabaab, with the number of reported events passing from 1 771 to 2 072 over the past year.¹²⁹ At the beginning of September 2022, the Somali president HSM spoke about between

¹¹⁷ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), regional chapters; EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), Chapter 7 Federal members States and Somaliland; EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Targeted profiles, September 2021, [url](#), Chapter 5 Individuals involved in blood feuds/clan disputes and other clan issues

¹¹⁸ Horn Diplomat, Somaliland: The Consequences of reviving and resuming stalled talks with Somalia, 4 January 2023, [url](#); Horn Diplomat, Somaliland Reaffirms its commitment to resume Stalled Talks with Somalia, 7 December 2022, [url](#); Garowe Online, Somalia president says his government is determined to resume talks with Somaliland, 6 December 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁹ East African (The), Somalia, Ethiopia sign deal to strengthen ties, 1 October 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁰ Garowe Online, Somalia-Kenya relations: Inside Hassan Sheikh's meeting with Ruto in Nairobi, 14 September 2022, [url](#)

¹²¹ Daily Sabah, Ties with Somalia prove Africa's importance for Turkey: Erdoğan, 6 July 2022, [url](#)

¹²² The Africa Report, Return of the Sheikhs: What next for Somalia and the United Arab Emirates? 24 June 2022, [url](#)

¹²³ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), pp. 19-22, 77-116

¹²⁴ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), pp. 24-26

¹²⁵ International Crisis Group, Somalia: Al-Shabaab – It Will Be a Long War, Africa Briefing no. 99, 26 June 2014, [url](#), p. 1

¹²⁶ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 8

¹²⁷ CFR, Al-Shabaab, 19 May 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁸ Houreld, K., U.S. troops are back in Somalia and scrambling to help its special forces, The Washington Post, 10 December 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁹ Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, Surge in Militant Islamist Violence in the Sahel Dominates Africa's Fight against Extremists, 24 January 2022, [url](#)

15 000 and 18 000 fighters, compared to previous estimates between 5 000 and 7 000.¹³⁰ UN experts quoted in a BBC media report indicated that the group had a monthly revenue of about USD 10 million,¹³¹ while a few years earlier (2019) the UN Panel of Experts on Somalia, indicated that Al-Shabaab's annual operational expenditure was approximately USD 21 million.¹³²

During the reference period Al-Shabaab increased recruitment and training activities in Ethiopia, where close to 1 000 fighters were estimated to be present as of October 2022.¹³³ In July 2022 Al-Shabaab conducted a multi-day campaign inside Ethiopia attacking various border towns, including Aato, Yeed, and Feerfeer along the Somalia-Ethiopia border.¹³⁴ Reportedly about 2 000 Islamist fighters have taken part in the offensive, advancing in some cases more than 150 kilometres into Ethiopian territory. Killing more than 800 of them,¹³⁵ the Ethiopian army managed to repel the attack close afterwards its launching, however 'six weeks after the end of the operations', skirmishes continued to break out along the border.¹³⁶ Such cross-border offensive revealed Al-Shabaab's persistent goal to expand its external operational capacities and regional ambitions.¹³⁷

Simultaneously, at the time of the writing (December 2022), and on the backdrop of the military offensive against Al-Shabaab mentioned above, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) was recovering territory from Al-Shabaab forces,¹³⁸ notably in the Hiraan¹³⁹ and Middle Shabelle regions.¹⁴⁰ Below some highlights from the military operation are listed:

- The all-out offensive/military campaign mentioned above spread from the Hiraan region to the neighbouring regions of Galgaduud and Bay first,¹⁴¹ and then Middle Shabelle.¹⁴²
- As of September 21, the joint offensive, had liberated about 40 settlements in the Hiraan region and 6 more in Galgaduud.¹⁴³ Maruf, a leading Somali journalist with focus on Somalia and Al-Shabaab, reported on 4 October 2022 that 'none [of them] were large towns, and al-Shabab ha[d] since reported retaking several areas'.¹⁴⁴

¹³⁰ CSIS, Strengthening Somalia's Security: A Conversation with H.E. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, 16 September 2022, [url](#); BBC News, Al-Shabab: Are militant attacks on the rise in Somalia?, 2 November 2022, [url](#)

¹³¹ BBC News, Al-Shabab: Are militant attacks on the rise in Somalia?, 2 November 2022, [url](#)

¹³² UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2020/949, 28 September 2020, [url](#), para. 31

¹³³ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 21

¹³⁴ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 22

¹³⁵ VOA, Ethiopia Deploys New Troops into Neighboring Somalia, 8 August 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁶ Hochet-Bodin, N., Al-Shabab seeks to 'put down roots' in Ethiopia, Le Monde, 14 September 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁷ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 24

¹³⁸ VOA, Somali Army Dislodges Al-Shabab From Key Stronghold, 6 December 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁹ Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 454, 21 September 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1

¹⁴⁰ Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 469, 31 October 2022, source requiring registration, pp. 4-5; VOA, Somali Army Dislodges Al-Shabab From Key Stronghold, 6 December 2022, [url](#); Garowe Online, Al-Shabaab militants continue to lose strategic towns in Somalia, 6 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴¹ Weiss, C., Shabaab continues to lose ground in central Somalia, Long War Journal, 27 September 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴² Houreld, K., Uprising by Somali clans puts al-Qaeda-linked militants on the defensive, The Washington Post, 14 December 2022, [url](#); Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 462, 12 October 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1;

Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 469, 31 October 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1, 3, 4-5; International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch Digest Somalia – November 2022, 14 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴³ VOA, Somalia Military Makes Gains in Large-scale Offensive Against Al-Shabab, 26 September 2022, [url](#); see also Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 456, 26 September 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1

¹⁴⁴ Maruf, H., 'Ma'awisley' Militias in Central Somalia Mobilizing Against al-Shabab, 4 October 2022, [url](#)

- At the beginning of December 2022, the joint military offensive had overrun, among others, the strategic stronghold of Adan Yabal (Middle Shabelle), which had been under Al-Shabaab control since 2016.¹⁴⁵ In an article from 14 December 2022, Houreld, the Washington Post correspondent from Nairobi, talked about 20 settlements taken by government forces in the Hiraan and Middle Shabelle regions of central Somalia in the previous five months.¹⁴⁶ Al-Shabaab was 'largely cleared [...] from territory nearly 200 miles across in the central Hiran region and in a separate swath of about 120 miles along a key road in the central Middle Shabelle region'.¹⁴⁷
- Still at the beginning of December 2022, Jubbaland and South West State were said to be 'on course to open up other fronts against al-Shabab'.¹⁴⁸ By mid-December, while the SNA was reported to be intensifying operations in the South West State,¹⁴⁹ residents and security forces in Jubbaland were still to be mobilised against Al-Shabaab.¹⁵⁰
- For an overview of settlements in Hiraan, Middle Shabelle and Galgaduud reportedly liberated from Al-Shabaab at the end of the reference period, see section [1.3.2 Map 2 Areas liberated from Al-Shabaab](#) as of 10 December 2022 by Abdi Barud. The author of the map is a Somali communication expert and advisor to former PM Hassan Ali Khaire in the period 2017-2020. For comparison purposes and for a country-wide overview of Al-Shabaab territorial control and contested areas please see also [Map 3](#) and [Map 4 Approximate Territorial Control](#) at the beginning and at the end of the reference period of this report.

At the end of the reference period the military offensive was confronted with a number of challenges, including:

- The ability of the government's security forces to keep hold of the territories and towns liberated from Al-Shabaab;¹⁵¹ as reported by the Economist 'Al-Shabaab has a record of quickly seizing back territories that it has lost'.¹⁵²
- The treatment of the community people from the liberated locations. According to an expert interview with a Somali consultant based in Mogadishu, there seems to be a clear distinction between regional areas recently liberated. In Middle Shabelle most locations had little or no population on the arrival of the SNA, and reports on the ground indicated that these communities were in most cases taken away by Al-

¹⁴⁵ VOA, Somali Army Dislodges Al-Shabab From Key Stronghold, 6 December 2022, [url](#); Garowe Online, Al-Shabaab militants continue to lose strategic towns in Somalia, 6 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁶ Houreld, K., Uprising by Somali clans puts al-Qaeda-linked militants on the defensive, The Washington Post, 14 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁷ Houreld, K., U.S. troops are back in Somalia and scrambling to help its special forces, The Washington Post, 10 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁸ VOA, Somali Army Dislodges Al-Shabab From Key Stronghold, 6 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁹ Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 487, 14 December 2022, source requiring registration, p. 5

¹⁵⁰ Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 487, 14 December 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1

¹⁵¹ VOA, Somali Army Dislodges Al-Shabab From Key Stronghold, 6 December 2022, [url](#); Houreld, K., Uprising by Somali clans puts al-Qaeda-linked militants on the defensive, The Washington Post, 14 December 2022, [url](#); Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 456, 26 September 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1; Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 482, 30 November 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1; Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 487, 14 December 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1; Weiss, C., Shabaab continues to lose ground in central Somalia, Long War Journal, 27 September 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵² The Economist, Somali clans are revolting against jihadists, 3 November 2022, [url](#)



Shabaab, forcibly or not forcibly. And, as the expert put it, ‘whether they will be able to return to their settlements remains to be seen’. Reportedly, though, this was not the case for the Hiraan region. The reason why community treatment differs across various regions ‘can only be speculated’, and ‘whether communities are able and willing to return should be closely monitored’.¹⁵³

- The risk that clan militias might start pursuing their own agenda as soon as the field will be cleared from Al-Shabaab, hence triggering clan conflicts.¹⁵⁴ This has already been the case in Cell Baraf,¹⁵⁵ and Adale district,¹⁵⁶ resulting in this last location in more than 50 fatalities.¹⁵⁷
- The retaliation from Al-Shabaab in response to the offensive,¹⁵⁸ which carries the risks of “increased violence against civilians”.¹⁵⁹
- The capacity of Al-Shabaab to overran SNA and Macawisley military positions.¹⁶⁰
- The difficulty to replicate the success of the operation in other parts of Somalia, especially in the Al-Shabaab’ heartland in the south, where clan militias are ‘neither as large nor as well-armed as those in Hirshabelle’.¹⁶¹
- The resilience of Al-Shabaab in the rural areas,¹⁶² the popular support the group still enjoys,¹⁶³ and its ‘might’ also in Mogadishu, where allegedly the group ‘has gained informal control’,¹⁶⁴ and where Al-Shabaab members are reportedly moving after being defeated in the countryside;¹⁶⁵

For an overview of Al-Shabaab as a military and political organisation, including insights into the group’s outreach, see the [EASO COI report on Somalia: Actors \(July 2021\)](#).¹⁶⁶ For additional details about conflict layers and dynamics at federal and regional level see the remainder of this report.

¹⁵³ Somali consultant and former government official based in Mogadishu, Online interview 20 December 2022

¹⁵⁴ Houreld, K., Uprising by Somali clans puts al-Qaeda-linked militants on the defensive, The Washington Post, 14 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁵ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch Digest Somalia – November 2022, 14 December 2022, [url](#); Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 482, 30 November 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1

¹⁵⁶ Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 475, 14 November 2022, source requiring registration, p. 2;

¹⁵⁷ Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 482, 30 November 2022, source requiring registration, p. 5

¹⁵⁸ DW, Somalia continues offensive against al-Shabab, 6 October 2022, [url](#); BBC News, Al-Shabab: Are militant attacks on the rise in Somalia?, 2 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁹ BBC News, Al-Shabab: Are militant attacks on the rise in Somalia?, 2 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁰ Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 482, 30 November 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1

¹⁶¹ The Economist, Somali clans are revolting against jihadists, 3 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶² International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch Digest Somalia – November 2022, 14 December 2022, [url](#); Hochet-Bodin, N., Somalia: Breakthrough in the war against Al-Shabab, Le Monde, 20 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶³ Houreld, K., Uprising by Somali clans puts al-Qaeda-linked militants on the defensive, The Washington Post, 14 December 2022, [url](#)

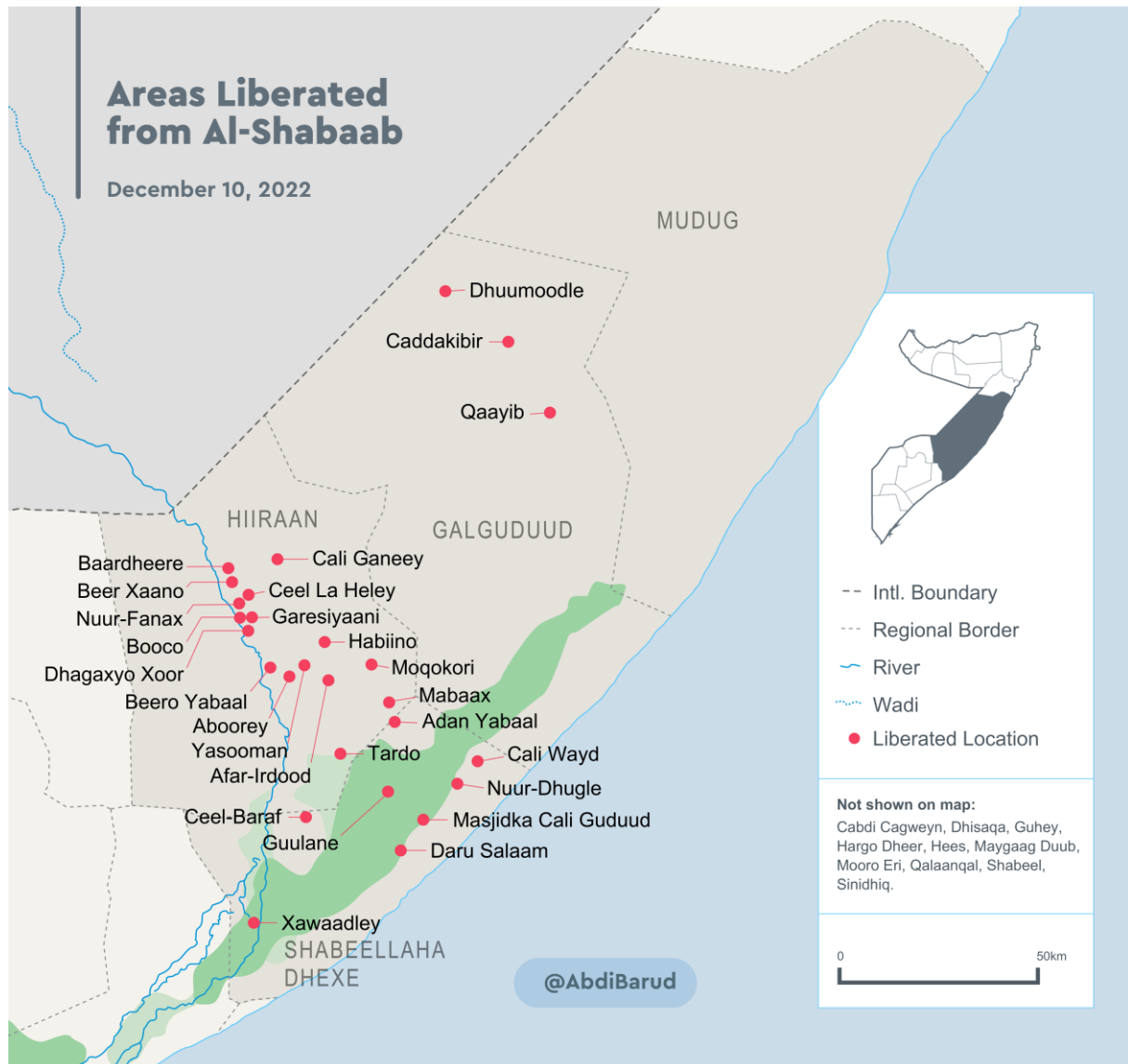
¹⁶⁴ Ingiriis, M. H., Al-Shabaab in Somalia has resisted military force: now is the time for a new strategy, The Conversation, 20 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁵ Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 487, 14 December 2022, source requiring registration, p. 4

¹⁶⁶ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), pp. 58-67



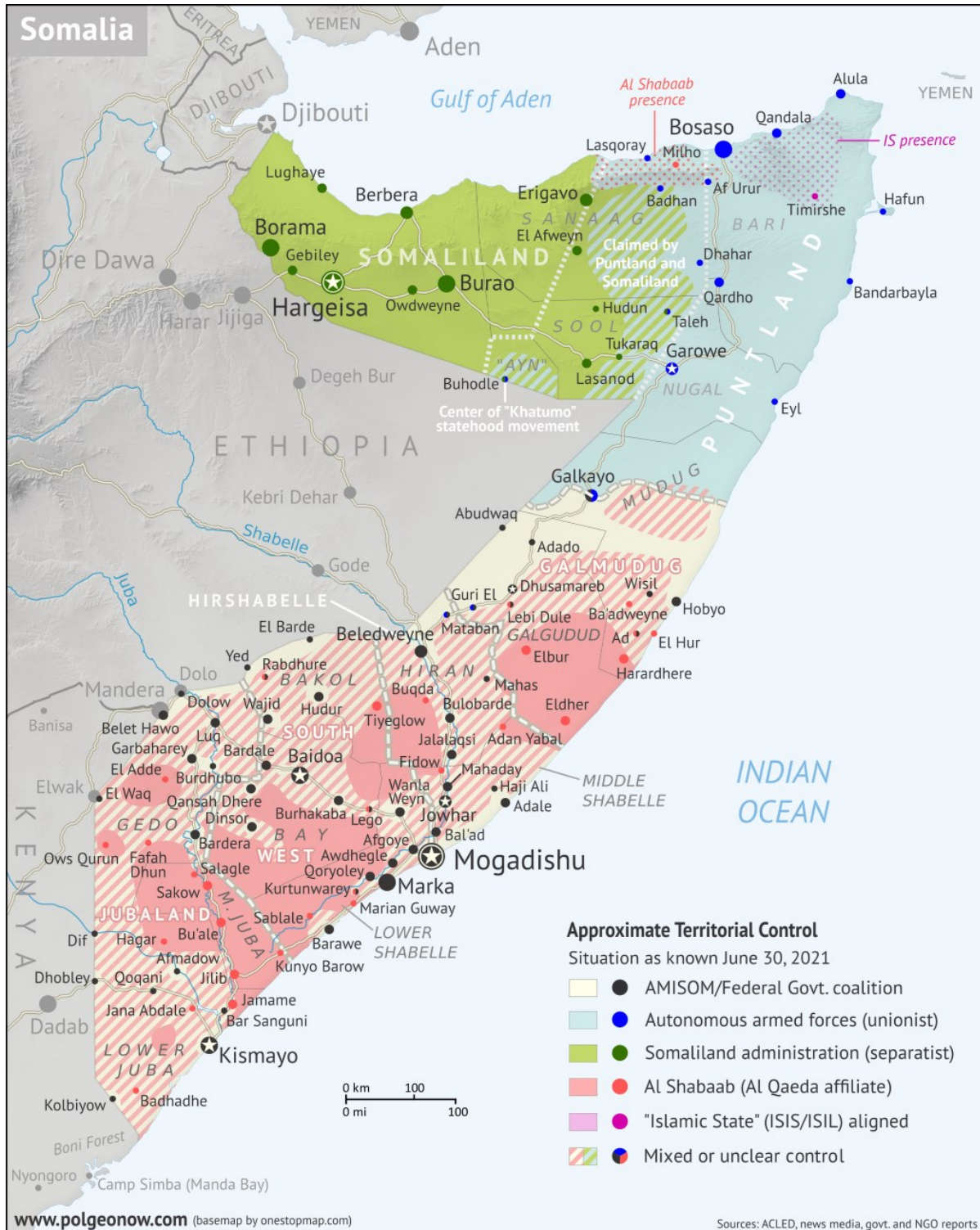
1.3.2. Maps on liberated areas and approximate territorial control



Map 2. Areas liberated from Al-Shabaab, 10 December 2022.¹⁶⁷

Please note: The depictions on this map do not imply any opinion whatsoever on the part of EUAA concerning legal status or effective control over any country, territory, city, or area. Every effort is made to ensure this map is free of errors, but there is no guarantee that the map or its features are either spatially or temporally accurate or fit for a particular use. This map is provided without any warranty of any kind whatsoever, either expressed or implied.

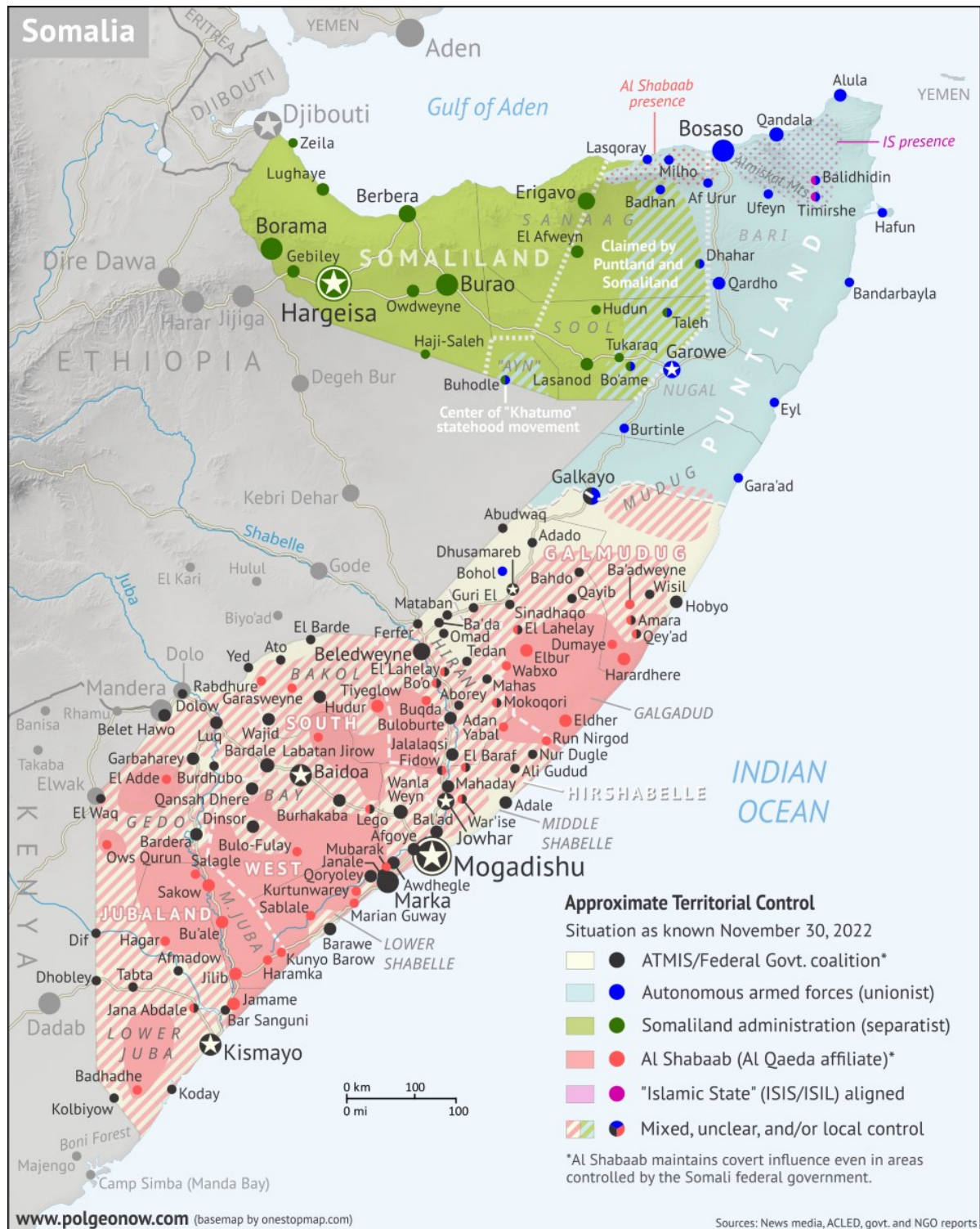
¹⁶⁷ Abdi Barud, Areas liberated from Al-Shabaab, 10 December 2022, [url](#)



Map 3. Somalia - Approximate Territorial Control, 30 June 2021, Political Geography Now (www.polgeonow.com).¹⁶⁸

Please note: The depictions on this map do not imply any opinion whatsoever on the part of EUAA concerning legal status or effective control over any country, territory, city, or area. Every effort is made to ensure this map is free of errors, but there is no guarantee that the map or its features are either spatially or temporally accurate or fit for a particular use. This map is provided without any warranty of any kind whatsoever, either expressed or implied.

¹⁶⁸ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 June 2022, n.a., non-public source.



Map 4. Somalia - Approximate Territorial Control, 30 Nov 2022, Political Geography Now (www.polgeonow.com).¹⁶⁹

Please note: The depictions on this map do not imply any opinion whatsoever on the part of EUAA concerning legal status or effective control over any country, territory, city, or area. Every effort is made to ensure this map is free of errors, but there is no guarantee that the map or its features are either spatially or temporally accurate or fit for a particular use. This map is provided without any warranty of any kind whatsoever, either expressed or implied.

¹⁶⁹ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source.

1.3.3. Other armed actors

Somalia is characterised by the presence of numerous state and non-state armed actors. As Somali security expert Dr. Vanda Felbab-Brown¹⁷⁰ put it '[m]ore than 60 warring parties are present in the country, ranging from clan and warlord militias to various other militant groups', including the Islamic State in Somalia (ISIS-Somalia).¹⁷¹

Most of these military and security forces have been addressed in detail in [EASO COI report on Somalia: Actors](#) (July 2021).¹⁷² Each armed actor's general strength, territorial control/presence, and overall dynamics are discussed in the referenced pages below. For main changes occurred during the reference period instead (July 2021-November 2022) or additional information see further details in the remainder of this section:

- The FGS Security Forces, including the Somali National Army (SNA), the Special Forces, the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA), Police Forces, Prison Forces;¹⁷³ regarding the special forces and the SNA soldiers in Eritrea:
 - a. Danab Infantry Brigade: as of November 2022, based on Maruf's interviews with military officials, the US trained Danab forces numbered almost 2 000 fighters, including a new batch of 350 soldiers that had just started their training;¹⁷⁴
 - b. Gorgor Brigade: as of November 2022, based on Maruf's interviews with military officials, Turkey had trained 5 000 commandos as well as 316 officers and 392 non-commissioned officers;¹⁷⁵
 - c. 5 000 SNA soldiers repatriated from Eritrea: as of 21 December 2022, the first batch of Somali soldiers who had been sent to Eritrea for training in the course of 2019 and 2020 arrived in Mogadishu.¹⁷⁶ As of 1 January 2023, most of these troops had returned back in Somalia, and reportedly joined the on-going operation against Al-Shabaab.¹⁷⁷
- The FMS armed forces, darwish and police forces, for each FMS (Jubbaland, South West State, Benadir Regional Administration [BRA]-Mogadishu, Hirshabelle, Galmudug, Puntland, Somaliland).¹⁷⁸
- The Clan Militias;¹⁷⁹ for additional information on clan conflicts dynamics at regional level during the reference period see the remainder of this report.

¹⁷⁰ Dr. Vanda Felbab-Brown is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institute where she focuses on international and internal conflict, non-traditional security threats, and insurgency, among others. She has conducted fieldwork on a range of countries, including Somalia. Brookings, Vanda Felbab-Brown, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁷¹ Felbab-Brown, V., The Problem with Militias in Somalia, 2020, [url](#), p. 118

¹⁷² EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#)

¹⁷³ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), pp. 37-45

¹⁷⁴ VOA, Somalia Military Rebuilding Shows Signs of Improvement, 30 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁷⁵ VOA, Somalia Military Rebuilding Shows Signs of Improvement, 30 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁷⁶ VOA, First Batch of Somali Troops Trained in Eritrea Arrives Home, 21 December 2022, [url](#); Africanews, First batch of Somali soldiers returns from Eritrea, 21 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁷⁷ Garowe online, General Tahalil: most of Eritrean trained soldiers returned to Somalia, 1 January 2023, [url](#)

¹⁷⁸ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), pp. 77-116

¹⁷⁹ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), pp. 52-55; 77-116; EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Targeted profiles, September 2021, [url](#), Chapter 5 Individuals involved in blood feuds/clan disputes and other clan issues; EUAA, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Security situation, September 2021, [url](#), sections on conflict dynamics

- Macawisley (also in the variants Macawiisleey, Macawiisley, Ma'awisley, among others) was originally an Hawadle-led clan militia.¹⁸⁰ Operating in the Lower Shabelle region it was made of about 200 fighters. The name derives from the long sarong-like skirts worn by its members, pastoralists and farmers, who had organized to fight al-Shabaab's excessive taxation.¹⁸¹ Similar forms of clan based, self-organised and self-styled protection forces against Al-Shabaab were also set-up in Gedo¹⁸², in Hirshabelle,¹⁸³ and in Middle Shabelle¹⁸⁴ at different times in recent years. Reportedly the Macawisley militia is made up of farmers turned fighters.¹⁸⁵ They are locals "who benefit from their network and have an understanding of rural communities", including about the terrain, Al-Shabaab's positions, and the minefields, as Somalia expert Marchal put it in a media report.¹⁸⁶ As of 14 October 2022 between 300 and 400 Ma'awisley militia men were reported to be surrounding Al-Shabaab.¹⁸⁷ No further info about their number could be found during the time limits of the research.
- ATMIS, African Transitional Mission in Somalia, a reconfiguration of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM);¹⁸⁸ with UN SC resolution no. 2628, from 31 March 2022, ATMIS replaced AMISOM with a similar mandate: to degrade Al-Shabaab, support capacity building of the Somali security forces, conduct a phased hand-over of security responsibilities, and support peace and reconciliation efforts in Somalia;¹⁸⁹ ATMIS authorised components were the same as AMISOM¹⁹⁰ until 31 December 2022, 19 626 in total (including 1 040 police and 70 civilian).¹⁹¹ The intended goal was a progressive phase out, starting from 1 January 2023, to reach 'zero personnel' by the end of phase 4 (December 2024).¹⁹² However, at the end of November 2022, upon request of the Somali government, the AU Peace and Security Council delayed the withdrawal of the mission, which is supposed to start gradually from June 2023 instead.¹⁹³
- United States Africa Command (AFRICOM);¹⁹⁴ in May 2022 the Biden administration, reversing President Trump's decision, decided to send back US troops in Somalia, with sources indicating between around 450¹⁹⁵ and 500 redeployed soldiers.¹⁹⁶ Before withdrawing in January 2021, the US military presence in Somalia was of approximately

¹⁸⁰ Keating M. and Waldman M., eds., War and Peace in Somalia – National Grievances, Local Conflict and Al-Shabaab, Hurst and Company London, 2018, p. 101

¹⁸¹ Felbab-Brown, V., The Problem with Militias in Somalia, 2020, [url](#), p. 129

¹⁸² EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Security situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 80

¹⁸³ Strategic Intelligence, Several Al Shabaab Killed, Dozen Injured After Macawiisley Militia Attacks Militant Camp In Beledweyne, 23 October 2019, [url](#); International Crisis Group, Tracking Conflict Worldwide, May 2021, [url](#)

¹⁸⁴ Maruf, H., 'Ma'awisley' Militias in Central Somalia Mobilizing Against al-Shabab, 4 October 2022, [url](#); Harun Maruf, [Twitter], posted on 25 February 2021, [url](#)

¹⁸⁵ SkyNews, From farmers to fighters - how a new Somali militia has risen against al Shabaab, 14 October 2022, [url](#)

¹⁸⁶ Hochet-Bodin, N., Somalia: Breakthrough in the war against Al-Shabab, Le Monde, 20 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁸⁷ SkyNews, From farmers to fighters - how a new Somali militia has risen against al Shabaab, 14 October 2022, [url](#)

¹⁸⁸ AU, Peace and Security Council, Communique for 1068th Meeting, Communiqué Rev. 1, PSC/PR/COMM.1068 (2022), 8 March 2022, [url](#), pp. 1-2

¹⁸⁹ UN Security Council, Resolution no. 2628(2022), S/RES/2628 (2022), 31 March 2022, [url](#), para. 22

¹⁹⁰ UN Security Council, Resolution no. 2568(2021), S/RES/2568 (2021), 12 March 2021, [url](#), para. 10

¹⁹¹ UN Security Council, Resolution no. 2628(2022), S/RES/2628 (2022), 31 March 2022, [url](#), para. 26

¹⁹² UN Security Council, Resolution no. 2628(2022), S/RES/2628 (2022), 31 March 2022, [url](#), para. 27-26

¹⁹³ The EastAfrican, Delayed Atmis withdrawal signals gaps in Somalia rebuilding, 29 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁹⁴ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), pp. 72-74

¹⁹⁵ New York Times (The), Biden Approves Plan to Redeploy Several Hundred Ground Forces Into Somalia, 16 May 2022, [url](#)

¹⁹⁶ Harper, M., US troops back in Somalia to fight al-Shabab, BBC News, [url](#); News, Biden sends hundreds of U.S. troops back to Somalia to fight al-Shabab extremists, 16 May 2022, [url](#)

700 troops.¹⁹⁷ Under this new system, their assistance to Somali and African Union forces replaced short-term training missions.¹⁹⁸ Assistance to Danab's special forces has also resumed. Regarding airstrikes, Biden has limited them to collective self-defence, hence lowering their number compared to Trump's administration.¹⁹⁹ Based on AFRICOM data, the number of airstrikes in Somalia was 35 in 2020, 9 in 2021, and 12 in 2022.²⁰⁰ In contrast, the Long War Journal Tracker reported that the number of airstrikes in Somalia was 44 in 2020, 11 in 2021, and 15 in 2022.²⁰¹ Airwars reported that the number of airstrikes were 72 in 2020, 19 in 2021, 20 in 2022.²⁰² As of November 2022 the US government was 'considering loosening restrictions on airstrikes in Somalia'.²⁰³ The exact number of fatalities and (civilian) casualties caused by these incidents could not be determined during the time limits of this research. For further details see section [1.4 Recent security incidents and trends](#), notably [1.4.1\(b\) Airstrikes](#).

- Al-Shabaab;²⁰⁴ see for further details section [1.3.1 Al-Shabaab controlled-areas, presence, and influence](#) above.
- Islamic State in Somalia (ISIS-Somalia or ISS);²⁰⁵ according to the UN Panel of Experts on Somalia, in the reference period ISIS-Somalia kept carrying out operations in northern Somalia, especially in the Bari region in Puntland.²⁰⁶ In the period May-July 2021 the Puntland Security Forces conducted various anti-ISIS operations in the area reportedly limiting the group's ability to mount attacks.²⁰⁷ However, based on ACLED data, 25 security events were attributed to ISIS-Somalia during the reference period and with following distribution across three districts from north to south: 19 in Benadir, 4 in Qandala (Bari), and 2 in Afgoyee (Lower Shabelle).²⁰⁸ Based on a propaganda video released in Amharic by the group, in July 2022, a number of recruits who attended training, likely in Puntland, originated from Ethiopia.²⁰⁹ On 15 March 2022 ISIS-Somalia re-pledged allegiance to the back-then newly appointed leader of the Islamic State, Sheikh Abu-al-Hassan al-Hashimi al-Qurashi,²¹⁰ who was later killed in Syria in mid-October 2022.²¹¹ Based on the October 2021 report of the UN Panel of Experts on Somalia, the number of militants of the group was believed to have further

¹⁹⁷ AP News, US military says its troop removal from Somalia is complete, 17 January 2021, [url](#); VOA, US Military Pulls Last Troops Out of Somalia, 17 January 2021, [url](#)

¹⁹⁸ New York Times (The), Biden Approves Plan to Redeploy Several Hundred Ground Forces Into Somalia, 16 May 2022, [url](#)

¹⁹⁹ Houreld, K., U.S. troops are back in Somalia and scrambling to help its special forces, The Washington Post, 10 December 2022, [url](#)

²⁰⁰ US AFRICOM, Airstrikes, 2022, EUAA analysis, [url](#)

²⁰¹ Long War Journal, US strikes in Somalia, 2022, [url](#)

²⁰² Airwars, US Forces in Somalia – US Strikes and Civilian Casualties, 2022, [url](#)

²⁰³ Friends Committee on National Legislation, More American Drone Strikes Won't Make Somalia Safer, 10 November 2022, [url](#)

²⁰⁴ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), pp. 58-67

²⁰⁵ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), pp. 74-77

²⁰⁶ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2021/849, 6 October 2021, [url](#), para. 28; UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 31

²⁰⁷ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2021/849, 6 October 2021, [url](#), para. 28

²⁰⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, as of 30 November 2022, [url](#)

²⁰⁹ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 32

²¹⁰ Australia, Australian national security, Islamic State in Somalia, 2022, [url](#)

²¹¹ VOA, US Knew for Weeks Islamic State Leader Was Dead, 30 November 2022, [url](#)

decreased from the 340 combatants estimated in 2019.²¹² For more info on this point see chapter 6 Islamic State in Somalia of the [EASO COI report on Somalia: Actors](#) (July 2021).²¹³

- Ahlu Sunna Wal-Jama'ah (ASWJ). The multi-clan (Ayr, Dir and Marehan clans)²¹⁴ armed Sufi group, operating mostly in Galmudug and in part Hiraan, had by 2017 an estimated force of about 5 000 soldiers.²¹⁵ While it was considered to be defeated both militarily and politically at the end of the previous reference period (2020- June 2021),²¹⁶ its leadership reappeared in Galmudug in mid-2021.²¹⁷ From late 2021 to May 2022, the group clashed with Galmudug State's forces and the Federal Government of Somalia's forces.²¹⁸
- Ethiopian National Defence Force (ENDF) and the Kenya Defence Force (KDF): both Ethiopia and Kenya provide extrabudgetary security assistance to Somalia.²¹⁹ Reportedly, besides the AU contingent (about 4 000 soldiers each),²²⁰ both countries have thousands additional soldiers in Somalia bilaterally;²²¹ in the aftermath of the July 2022 Al-Shabaab incursion into Ethiopia, 2 000 additional Ethiopian troops were deployed in the Gedo region 'to prevent al-Shabab militants from crossing over into Ethiopia'.²²²

For further information about nature and character of the security forces and the armed groups touched upon above, including their fluid membership, please refer to the [EASO COI Report Somalia: Security Situation](#) (September 2021), section 1.2 Armed actors.²²³

1.3.4. Armed actors and security incidents

Based on ACLED data, Figure 1 below illustrates the relative number of incidents - over a total of 3 922 reported security incidents - in which the various armed actors active in Somalia were coded as Actor1 over the reference period (July 2021 – November 2022, 17 months). As mentioned in the introduction, based on the ACLED codebook, Actor1 is the 'named actor involved in the event' and Actor2 is the 'named actor involved in the [same] event' for those cases, which are the majority, where an event requires two actors.²²⁴

²¹² UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2021/849, 6 October 2021, [url](#), para. 28

²¹³ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), pp. 74-77

²¹⁴ Saferworld, Clans, contention and consensus - Federalism and inclusion in Galmudug, June 2020, [url](#), p. 19

²¹⁵ Felbab-Brown, V., The Problem with Militias in Somalia, 2020, [url](#), pp. 129-130

²¹⁶ EUAA, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 111

²¹⁷ Sahan, The Somali Wire, Issue no. 316, 27 January 2022, source requiring registration, p. 1

²¹⁸ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 34;

ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, as of 30 November 2022, [url](#)

²¹⁹ LSE, Somalia's Politics: The Usual Business? A Synthesis Paper of the Conflict Research Programme, June 2021, [url](#), p. 24

²²⁰ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 25

²²¹ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), p. 69

²²² VOA, Ethiopia Deploys New Troops into Neighboring Somalia, 8 August 2022, [url](#)

²²³ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), pp. 24-26

²²⁴ ACLED, Acled Codebook, January 2021, [url](#), pp. 5, 18

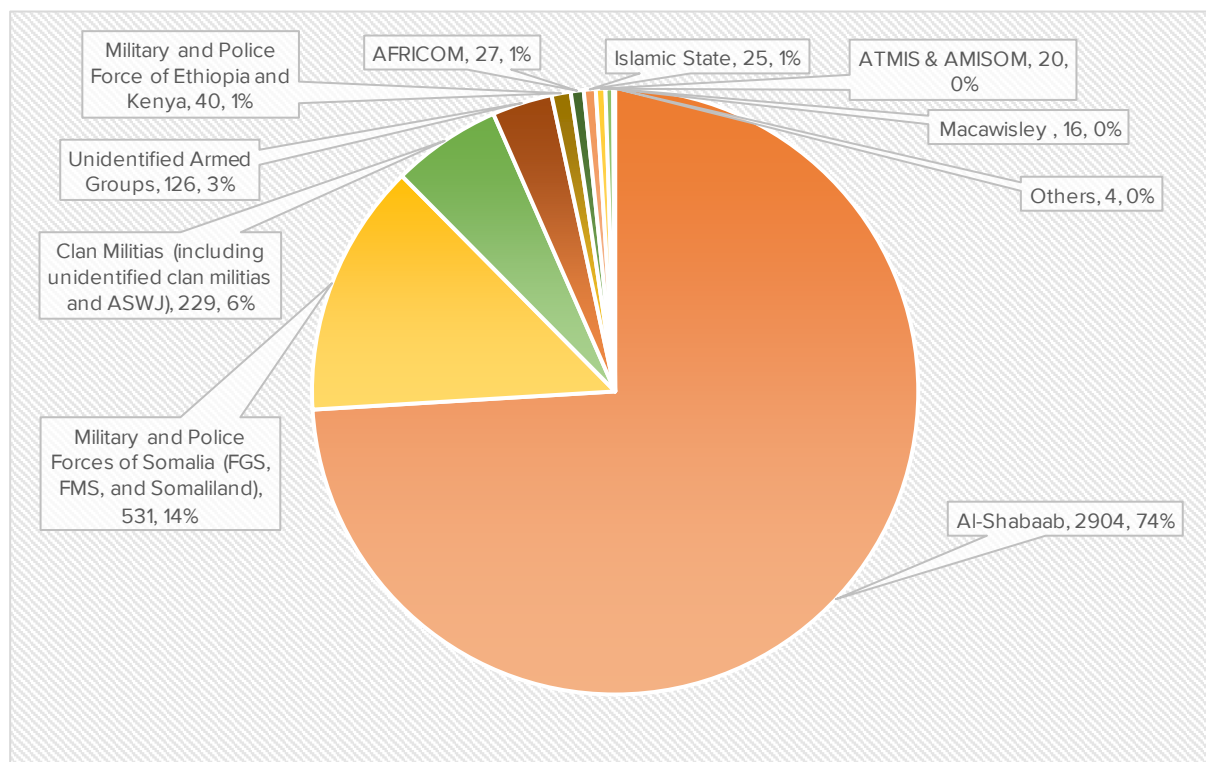
No. of security incidents attributed to Actors 1 over a total of 3 922 in the reference period

Figure 1. Actors 1 involved in security incidents in Somalia from 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, based on ACLED data.²²⁵

Compared to previous EUAA reporting, still based on ACLED data, the overall number of security incidents - battles, explosions/remote violence, and violence against civilians - increased from 3 663 in the period January 2020 – June 2021 (18 months) to 3 922 in the period 1 July 2021 – 30 November 2022 (17 months). Al-Shabaab was coded as Actor1 in 74 per cent of cases, while it was coded as such in the 62 per cent of cases in the previous reference period.²²⁶

In terms of overall involvement in security incidents – either as ACTOR 1 or as ACTOR 2 - ACLED reported Al-Shabaab being involved in 3 274 security incidents (over a total of 3922) in the reference period, while Somali security forces (military and police forces) were reportedly involved in 2 395 of these incidents.²²⁷ AMISOM and ATMIS were involved instead in 642 of them, mostly coded as Actor2 (622). For an overview about the various actors see Figure 2 below. For further details about nature and types of security incidents, as well as their trends and impacts on the civilian population please see section [1.4 Recent security incidents and trends](#).

²²⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, as of 30 November 2022, [url](#)

²²⁶ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 26

²²⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

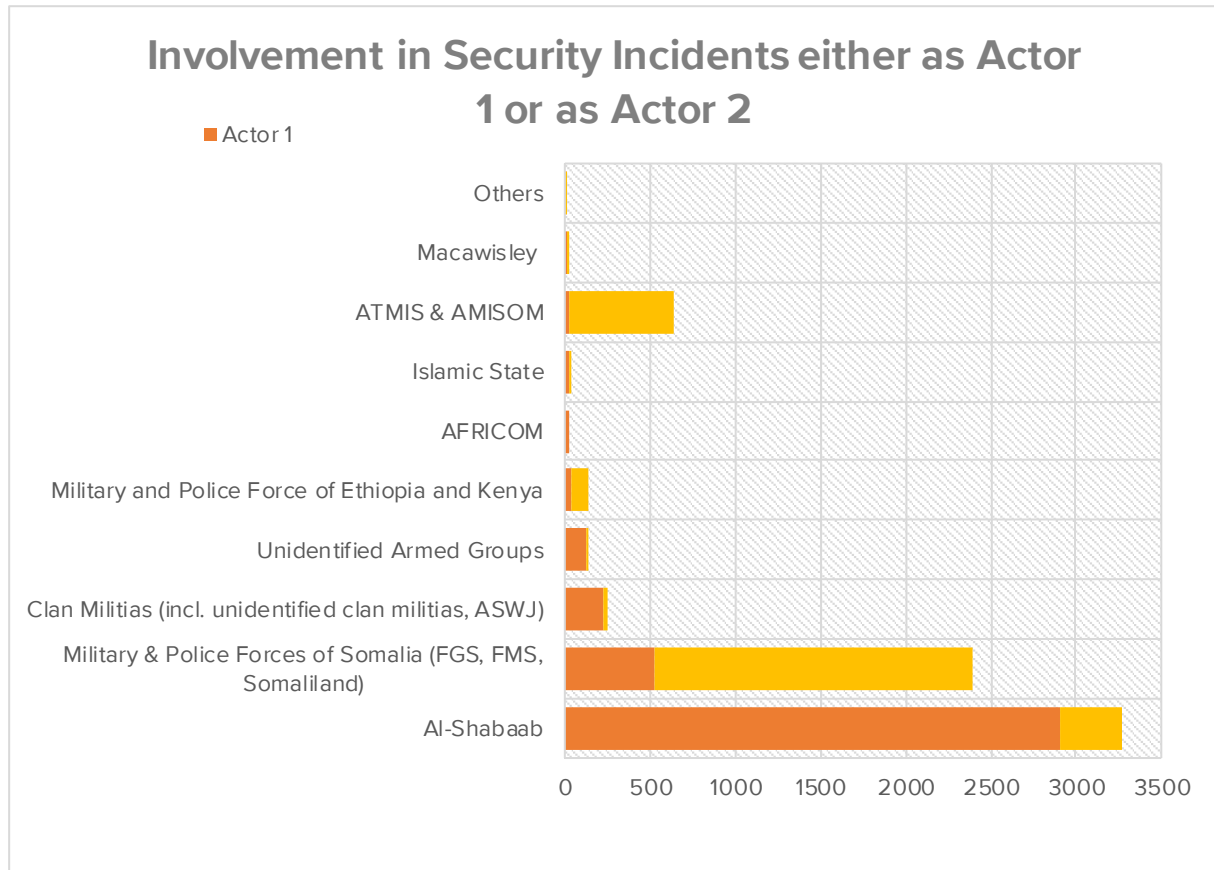


Figure 2. Involvement in security incidents in Somalia, either as Actor 1 or as Actor 2, from 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, based on ACLED data.²²⁸

1.4. Recent security incidents and trends

1.4.1. Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), estimated civilian fatalities

As mentioned above in section 1.1, in various UNSG reports, covering the period from 8 May 2021 to 23 August 2022,²²⁹ the security situation in Somalia was consistently described as ‘volatile’.²³⁰ A protection analysis update by UNHCR and the Protection Cluster Somalia for January to September 2022 stated that the security situation ‘remained precarious’.²³¹

²²⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, as of 30 November 2022, [url](#)

²²⁹ Please note that the UNSG report covering the period between August and November 2022 was not yet published at the time this report was drafted.

²³⁰ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 15; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 13; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 19; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/944, 11 November 2021, [url](#), para. 6; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/723, 10 August 2021, [url](#), para. 11

²³¹ UNHCR and Protection Cluster Somalia, Somalia - Protection Analysis Update September 2022, 30 September 2022, [url](#), p. 5

Recording monthly average figures on security incidents in Somalia²³², the UNSG documented 265 security incidents on average per month in 2021,²³³ 236 average monthly security incidents between January and April 2022,²³⁴ and 227 security incidents on average between May and July 2022²³⁵. During the reference period (July 2021 to November 2022), ACLED reported 3 922 security incidents, including 2 584 battles, 808 explosions or other forms of remote violence and 530 violent acts against civilians. [Figure 3](#) below shows the security incidents per month as recorded by ACLED combined with the monthly average documented by UNSG.

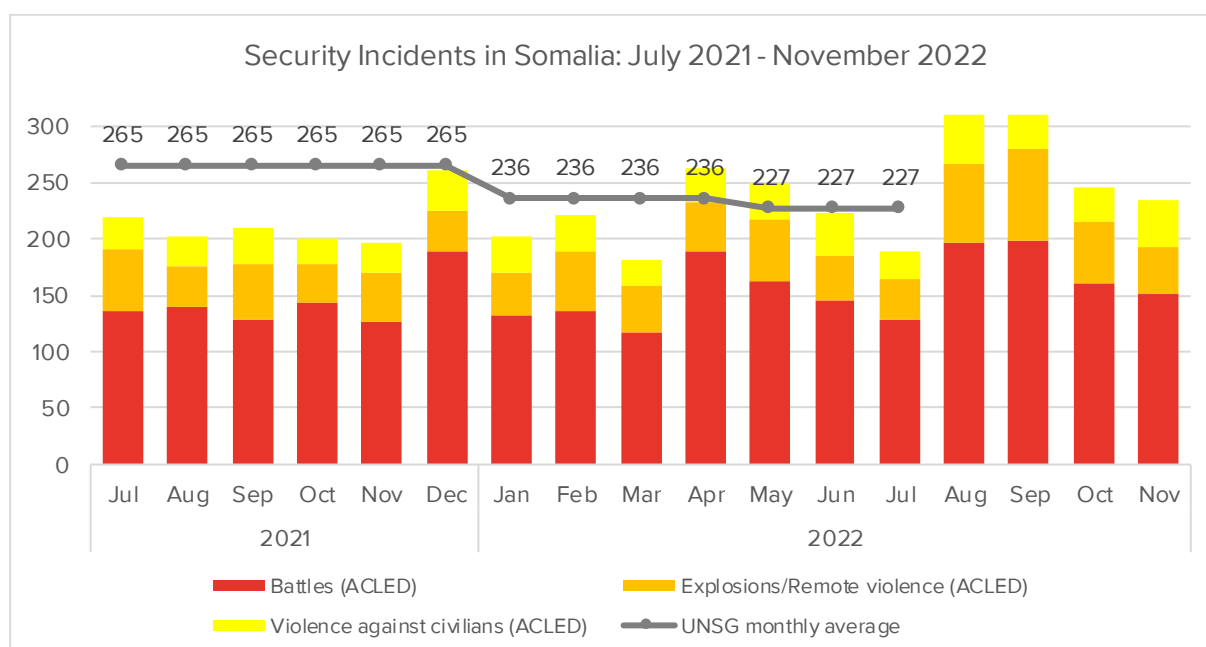


Figure 3. Evolution of security incidents coded battles, explosion/remote violence and violence against civilians from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data²³⁶ and monthly average as reported by UNSG (until July 2022).²³⁷

During the reference period, several sources reported on ‘indiscriminate’ violence against the civilian population.²³⁸ Civilians were reportedly affected both directly and indirectly by clashes

²³² Please note that no information on UNSG data collection methodology could be found within the time limits of this report.

²³³ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 19

²³⁴ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 13

²³⁵ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 15

²³⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

²³⁷ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 15; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 13; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 19

²³⁸ UNHCR and Protection Cluster Somalia, Somalia - Protection Analysis Update September 2022, 30 September 2022, [url](#), p. 5; UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Somalia: Report of the Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in Somalia, A/HRC/51/65, 19 August 2022, [url](#), para. 35; AI, Amnesty International Report – The State of the World’s Human Rights, Somalia, 29 March 2022, [url](#), p. 329; Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2022 – Somalia, 24 February 2022, [url](#); Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2022 Country Report – Somalia, 23 February 2022, [url](#), p. 18

and explosions carried out by non-state armed groups as well as by attacks²³⁹ carried out by all parties to the conflict.²⁴⁰ The civilian population was reported to be the main victim of the ‘disproportionate use of force’²⁴¹ with the armed conflict taking a ‘devastating toll’ on them’.²⁴²

Between 8 May 2021 and 23 August 2022,²⁴³ UNSOM recorded 1 500 civilian casualties, comprising 646 civilians killed and 854 injured.²⁴⁴ While no dataset could be found on the number of conflict-related civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) in Somalia for the reference period, [Table 1](#) shows the numbers of incidents and estimated fatalities (without distinction as to civilian and non-civilian) that were recorded by ACLED²⁴⁵ between July 2021 and end of November 2022 in Somalia, by type of incident.

Somalia	Number of incidents	Number of estimated fatalities
Battles	2 584	4 770
Explosions/Remote violence	808	1 789
Violence against civilians	530	586
Total	3 922	7 145

Table 1. Somalia – number of security incidents and fatalities by type of incident for the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data.²⁴⁶

²³⁹ UNHCR and Protection Cluster Somalia, Somalia - Protection Analysis Update September 2022, 30 September 2022, [url](#), p. 5

²⁴⁰ UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Somalia: Report of the Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in Somalia, A/HRC/51/65, 19 August 2022, [url](#), para. 35

²⁴¹ Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2022 Country Report – Somalia, 23 February 2022, [url](#), p. 18

²⁴² AI, A ten human rights agenda – For the new government of Somalia, 15 November 2022, [url](#), p. 2

²⁴³ Please note that this data only partially overlaps with the reference period of this report.

²⁴⁴ EUAA analysis based on UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 52; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 51; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 53; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/944, 11 November 2021, [url](#), para. 35; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/723, 10 August 2021, [url](#), para. 41; Please note that no information on UNSG data collection methodology could be found within the time limits of this report.

²⁴⁵ For more details on ACLED’s methodology, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

²⁴⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

Based on ACLED data, [Figure 4](#) shows the number of security incidents by type and region between July 2021 and November 2022, with the highest number of incidents recorded in Lower Shabelle (960 security incidents), followed by Benadir (898 security incidents) and Lower Juba (517 security incidents).

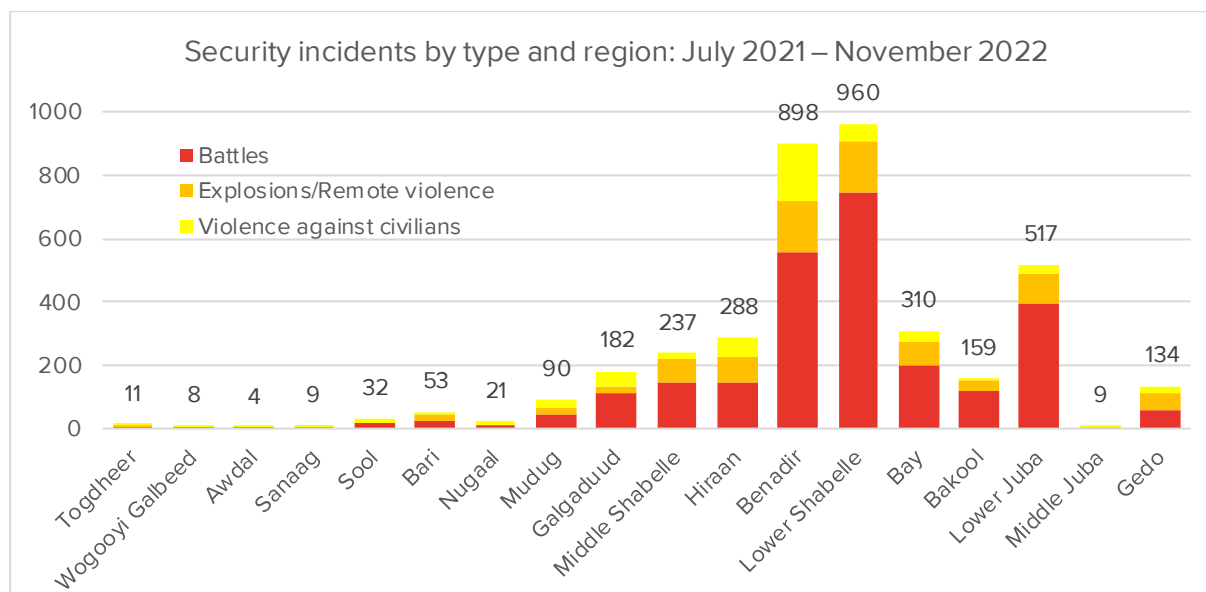


Figure 4. Somalia – number of security incidents by type and region for the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data. ²⁴⁷

For the period between July 2021 and November 2022, the highest number of estimated fatalities was recorded in Hiraan with 1 357 fatalities, followed by Lower Shabelle (1 004 fatalities) and Middle Shabelle (1 000 fatalities), according to ACLED data (see [Figure 5](#)).

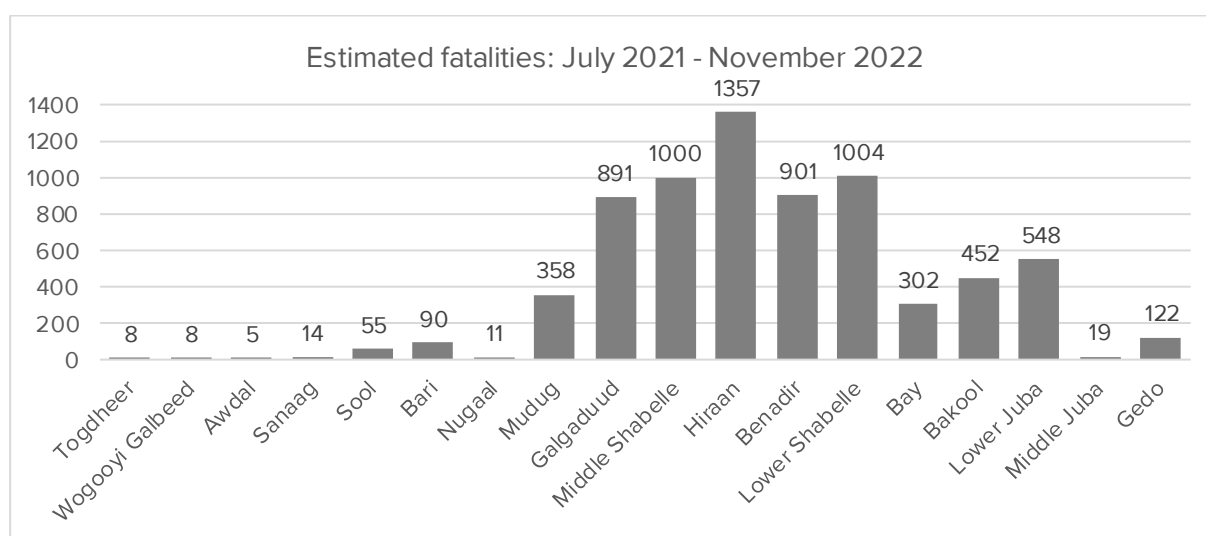


Figure 5. Somalia – number of fatalities by region for the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data. ²⁴⁸

For more detailed information on the regional level, please see section [2. Regional security situation and trends](#).

(a) Security incidents attributed to specific actors

Al-Shabaab

In September 2022, the UN panel of experts termed Al-Shabaab ‘the most immediate threat to the peace, security and stability of Somalia’.²⁴⁹ For the period between 8 May 2021 and 23 August 2022, the UNSG attributed most security incidents to Al-Shabaab, with Somali security forces and ATMIS (or AMISOM)²⁵⁰ remaining the main target of these attacks, which mainly involved IEDs and hit-and-run attacks.²⁵¹ According to the UNSG reports, of the 1 500 documented civilian casualties (killings and injuries) 788 or 53 % were attributed to Al-Shabaab.²⁵²

In the reference period, Al-Shabaab was reported to regularly carry out ‘indiscriminate attacks’ on civilians and civilian infrastructure²⁵³ throughout the country.²⁵⁴ In its annual reports on the human rights practice in Somalia for 2021, USDOS mentioned deliberate attacks on civilians,²⁵⁵ AI reported on targeted killings of people accused of having links to the government and of journalists among others by Al-Shabaab,²⁵⁶ including summary killings.²⁵⁷ For more information on Al-Shabaab targets, please see the September 2021 [EASO report on Somalia: Targeted profiles](#).

²⁴⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

²⁴⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

²⁴⁹ UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), p. 3

²⁵⁰ AMISOM, the African Union Mission in Somalia, was replaced with ATMIS, the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia by UN Security Council Resolution 2628 as of 1 April 2022. AMISOM, Home, n.d., [url](#)

²⁵¹ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 15; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 13; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 19; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/944, 11 November 2021, [url](#), para. 6; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/723, 10 August 2021, [url](#), para. 11

²⁵² EUAA analysis based on UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 52; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 51; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 53; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/944, 11 November 2021, [url](#), para. 35; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/723, 10 August 2021, [url](#), para. 41; Please note that no information on UNSG data collection methodology could be found within the time limits of this report.

²⁵³ AI, A ten human rights agenda – For the new government of Somalia, 15 November 2022, [url](#), p. 3; AI, Amnesty International Report – The State of the World’s Human Rights, Somalia, 29 March 2022, [url](#), p. 329

²⁵⁴ USDOS, 2021 Country Report on Trafficking in Persons: Somalia, 29 July 2022, [url](#)

²⁵⁵ USDOS, 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Somalia, 12 April 2022, [url](#), p. 4

²⁵⁶ AI, Amnesty International Report – The State of the World’s Human Rights, Somalia, 29 March 2022, [url](#), p. 329

²⁵⁷ AI, A ten human rights agenda – For the new government of Somalia, 15 November 2022, [url](#), p. 3

According to the Situation reports by the UNSG, the Benadir, Lower Shabelle,²⁵⁸ Middle Shabelle²⁵⁹ and Bay regions²⁶⁰ were reported to be the ‘most affected by Al-Shabaab activities’ between 8 May 2021 and 23 August 2022. Based on ACLED data, Al-Shabaab (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)²⁶¹ was involved in 3 274 security incidents during the reference period, leading to a total of 6 321 fatalities (including killed Al-Shabaab militants).²⁶² [Figure 6](#) shows the distribution of these events and resulting fatalities by region, [Figure 7](#) the incidents per event and sub-event type.

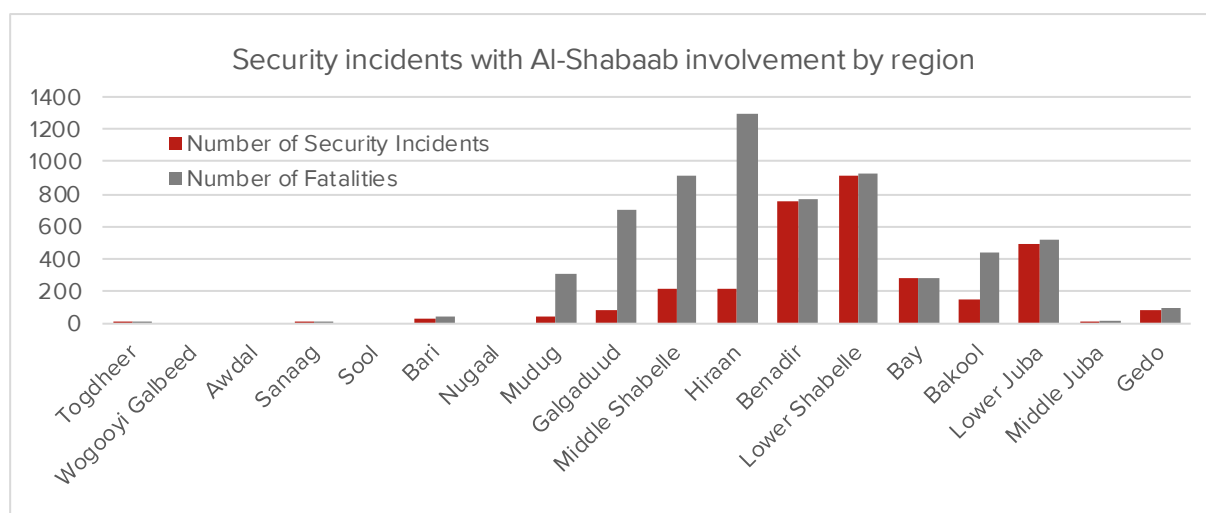


Figure 6. Regional distribution of security incidents (including battles, explosions/remote violence, violence against civilians) with Al-Shabaab involvement (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data.²⁶³

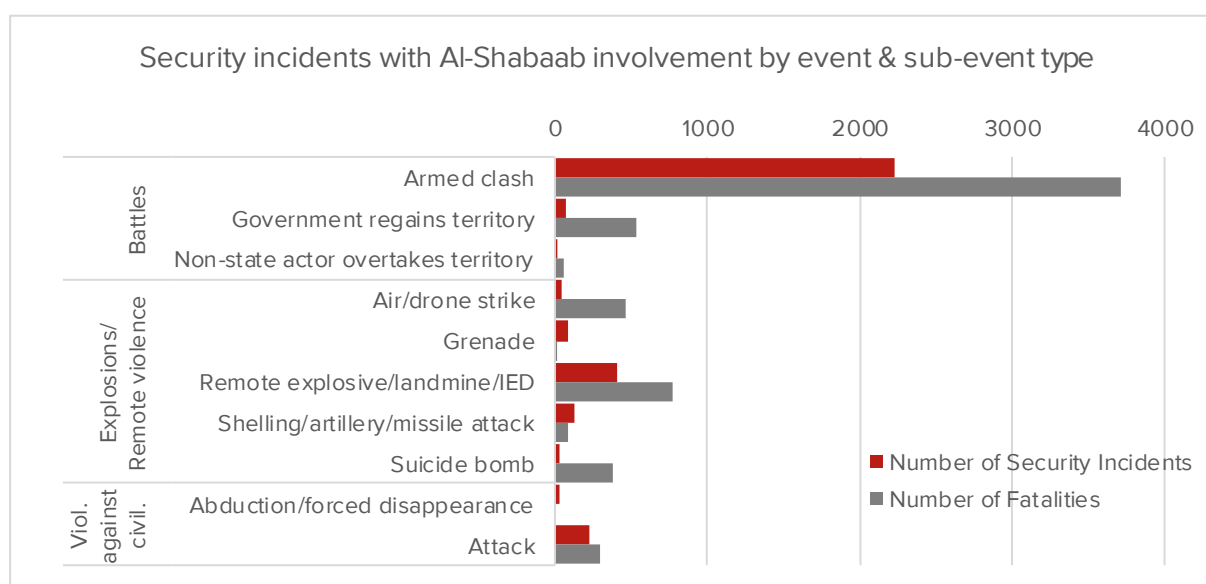


Figure 7. Event and sub-event types of security incidents with Al-Shabaab involvement (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) between July 2021 and November 2022 based on ACLED data.²⁶⁴

As reported in the UN Secretary-General's Situation Reports on Somalia, grave violations against children, including attacks on schools, abductions, maiming, and killings were

perpetrated by various actors. [Figure 8](#) shows the number of grave violations against children and the proportion ascribed to Al-Shabaab in the period between 8 May 2021 and 23 August 2022:

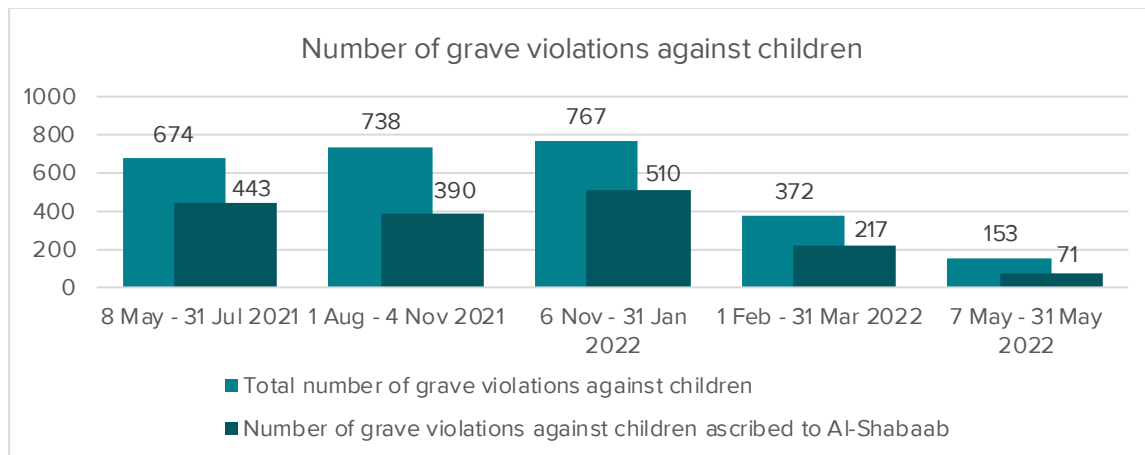


Figure 8. Grave violations against children, based on data as reported by the UNSG situation reports in Somalia.²⁶⁵

Clan militias

Clan-based violence or clan conflicts continued to be a serious concern, e.g., in Hiraan, Galmudug, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle²⁶⁶ and Sool regions, where it resulted in loss of life and livelihoods.²⁶⁷ USDOS reported that clashes between clans or with Al-Shabaab also caused deaths in Puntland, Lower Juba and Baidoa. Clan violence reportedly included revenge killings and attacks on civilian settlements.²⁶⁸ In the reference period, ACLED documented 258 security incidents, in which clan militias were involved (coded as either

²⁵⁸ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 15; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 13; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 19; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/944, 11 November 2021, [url](#), para. 6; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/723, 10 August 2021, [url](#), para. 11

²⁵⁹ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 19; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/944, 11 November 2021, [url](#), para. 6; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/723, 10 August 2021, [url](#), para. 11

²⁶⁰ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 15; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 13

²⁶¹ Please note that according to ACLED's Codebook, '[t]he order of actors has no meaning in the ACLED system, barring cases of 'Violence against civilians', in which the victim is always coded as Actor2'. ACLED, Codebook, January 2021, [url](#), p. 18. For more details on ACLED's methodology, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

²⁶² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

²⁶³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

²⁶⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

²⁶⁵ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 59; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 55; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 59; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/944, 11 November 2021, [url](#), para. 40; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/723, 10 August 2021, [url](#), para. 46

²⁶⁶ USDOS, 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Somalia, 12 April 2022, [url](#), p. 15

²⁶⁷ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), pp. 16-17; USDOS, 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Somalia, 12 April 2022, [url](#), p. 15

²⁶⁸ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), pp. 16-17

‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’²⁶⁹, that led to 616 fatalities.²⁷⁰ [Figure 9](#) shows the regional distribution of these events.

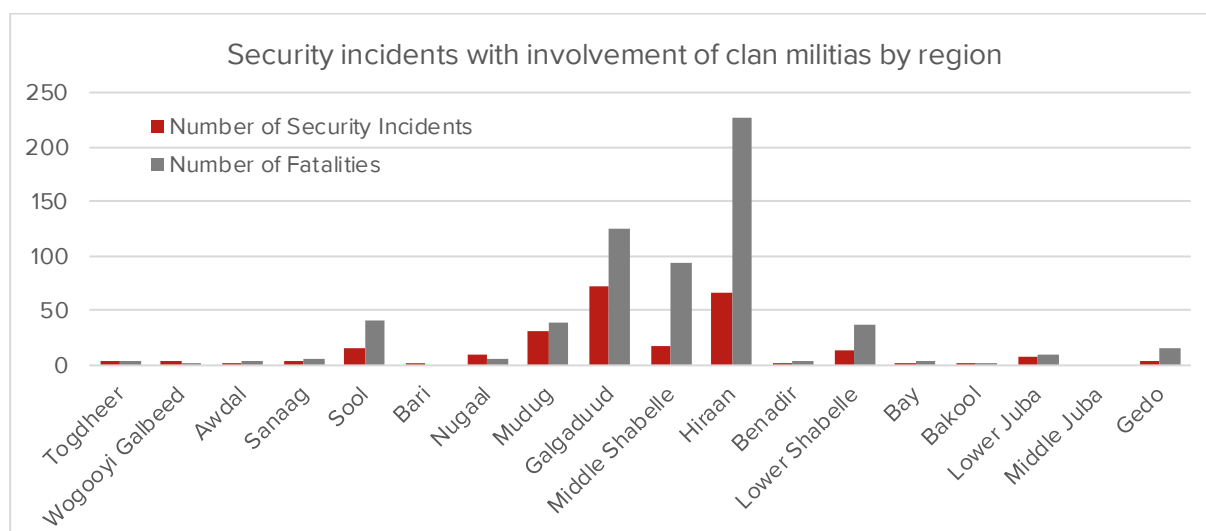


Figure 9. Regional distribution of security incidents (including battles, explosions/remote violence, violence against civilians) with involvement of clan militias (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data.²⁷¹

Unidentified Armed Groups

Based on ACLED data, unidentified armed groups (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)²⁷² were involved in 130 security incidents causing 91 fatalities.²⁷³ [Figure 10](#) shows the regional distribution of these events.

²⁶⁹ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

²⁷⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

²⁷¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

²⁷² For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

²⁷³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

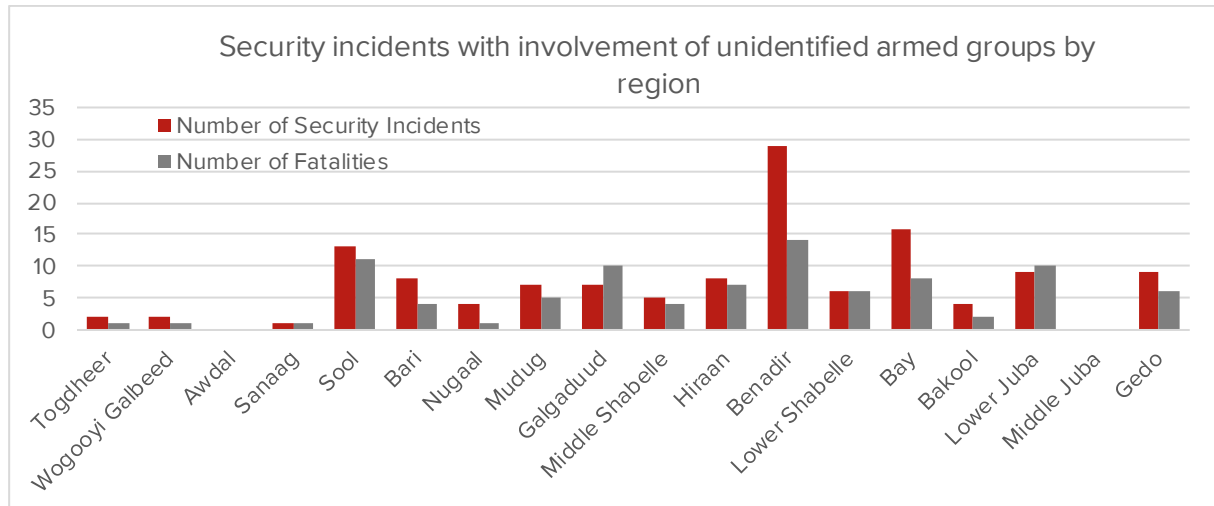


Figure 10. Regional distribution of security incidents (including battles, explosions/remote violence, violence against civilians) with involvement of unidentified armed groups (coded as either 'Actor1' or 'Actor2') between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data.²⁷⁴

(b) Airstrikes

In the reference period, ACLED documented 68 air/drone strikes, resulting in 475 fatalities. [Figure 11](#) shows the regional distribution of these events. While ACLED attributed 27 of the 68 air/drone strikes (with 325 resulting fatalities) to the US Military Forces,²⁷⁵ Airwars²⁷⁶ listed 23 reported incidents as being conducted by US forces. Of these 23 attacks, two resulted in civilian harm allegations: An air/drone strike carried out on 1 October 2022 near Haramka (Middle Juba) reportedly killed one civilian²⁷⁷ and another strike conducted on 9 September 2022 in Mubarak (Lower Shabelle) reportedly killed between 3 and 10 civilians, including a child.²⁷⁸ According to local media, in the September air strike between 5 to 7 civilians were killed and more than 10 others were wounded.²⁷⁹

²⁷⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

²⁷⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

²⁷⁶ Airwars is 'a not-for-profit transparency watchdog which tracks, assesses, archives and investigates civilian harm claims resulting primarily from explosive weapons use in conflict-affected nations including Iraq, Syria, Libya, Somalia and Yemen.' Airwars, Who we are, n.d., [url](#)

²⁷⁷ Please note that sources were conflicted as to whether this air/drone strike victim was a militant or a civilian. Airwars, US forces in Somalia, as of 23 December 2022, [url](#)

²⁷⁸ Airwars, US forces in Somalia, as of 23 December 2022, [url](#)

²⁷⁹ SG, US air strike kills civilians in south Somalia, 10 September 2022, [url](#)

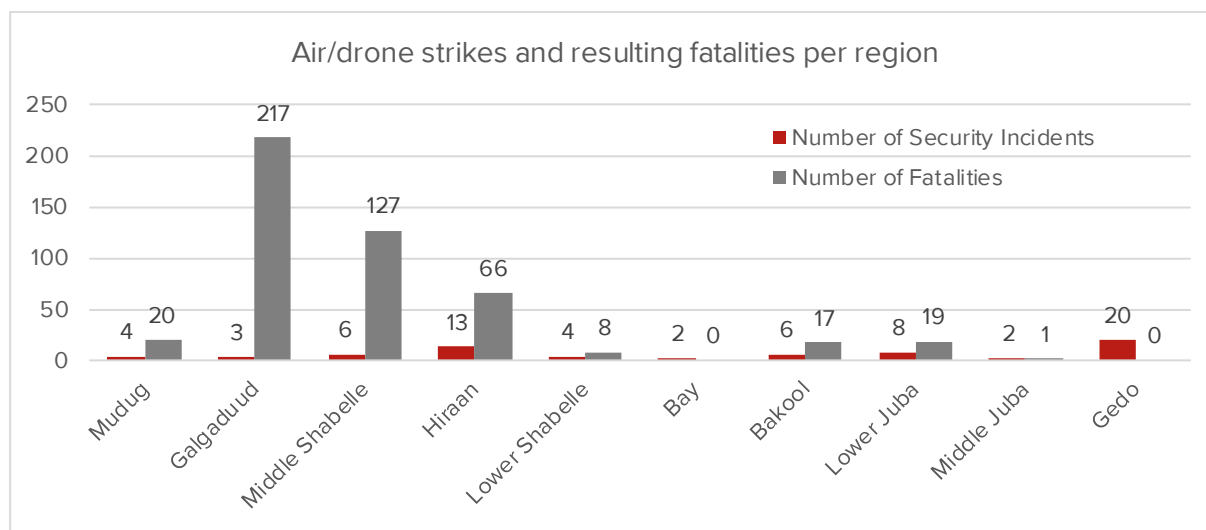


Figure 11. Regional distribution of security incidents coded as ‘air/drone strikes’ and resulting fatalities between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data.²⁸⁰

(c) Explosions/remote violence (IED, shelling, grenade, suicide bombs)

As of October 2021, UNOCHA reported on more than 1 800 IED incidents across Somalia within the previous 36 months leading to over 3 800 casualties. On average, this number corresponds to 44 IED incidents per month in 2021.²⁸¹ In its annual report for 2021, the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) described IEDs as ‘the weapon of choice’ against Somali Security and AMISOM/ATMIS forces in recent years.²⁸² Although these attacks are primarily aimed at security forces, due to their indiscriminate nature, they disproportionately affect civilians,²⁸³ who are often more exposed to the ‘impact of large explosions’²⁸⁴.

Explosive remnants of war dispersed throughout Somalia kept threatening the lives of civilians, especially children and nomadic families. Regions and districts along the Somali-Ethiopian border (Somaliland, Puntland, Galmudug, Hirshabelle and South West states), where most of Somalia's minefields are located, were reported to be particularly severely affected.²⁸⁵

In the reference period, ACLED recorded 808 security incidents coded as explosions/remote violence, resulting in 1 789 fatalities. [Figure 12](#) shows the regional distribution of these events. According to ACLED, of a total of 26 suicide attacks (resulting in 384 fatalities) between July 2021 and November 2022, 15 were perpetrated in Benadir region (resulting in 203 fatalities).²⁸⁶

²⁸⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

²⁸¹ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), p. 105

²⁸² UNMAS, Annual Report 2021, 31 August 2022, [url](#), p. 90

²⁸³ UNMAS, Annual Report 2021, 31 August 2022, [url](#), p. 90; UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), pp. 104-105

²⁸⁴ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), pp. 104-105

²⁸⁵ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), p. 104

²⁸⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

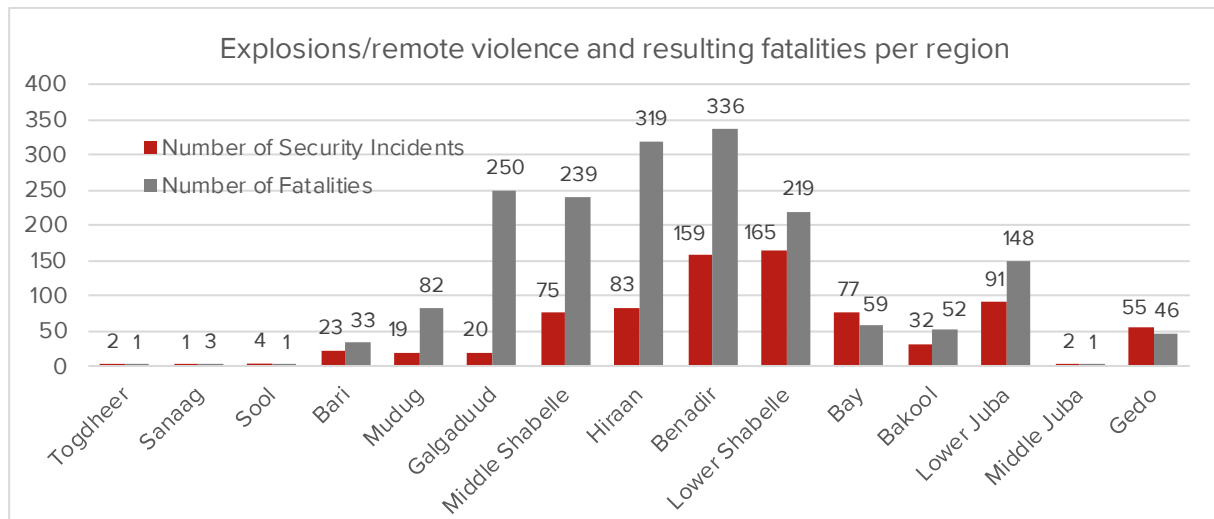


Figure 12. Regional distribution of security incidents coded as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and resulting fatalities between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data.²⁸⁷

1.4.2. Conflict-related displacement

Displacement continued to have a profound impact on the humanitarian crisis in Somalia.²⁸⁸ According to UNHCR, as of 31 October 2022, a total of 2.97 million people were internally displaced across Somalia.²⁸⁹ As of October 2021, UNOCHA estimated 2.9 million IDPs with 2.2 million of this group in need of ‘urgent humanitarian assistance’.²⁹⁰ Between July 2021 and November 2022, the UNHCR Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN)²⁹¹ reported 1 956 063 newly displaced individuals across Somalia. The reasons for these displacements were mainly drought (1 145 977 individuals or 59 % of all displacements) as well as conflict or insecurity (768 635 individuals or 39 % of all displacements). Of the 768 635 individuals displaced due to conflict/insecurity, PRMN documented most in August 2022 (197 269 individuals) followed by October 2021 (118 854 individuals),²⁹² as shown in [Figure 13](#).

²⁸⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

²⁸⁸ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), p. 6

²⁸⁹ UNHCR, Somalia Situation Population of concern to UNHCR – as of 31 October 2022, 6 December 2022, [url](#)

²⁹⁰ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), p. 7

²⁹¹ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

²⁹² EUAA analysis based on UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

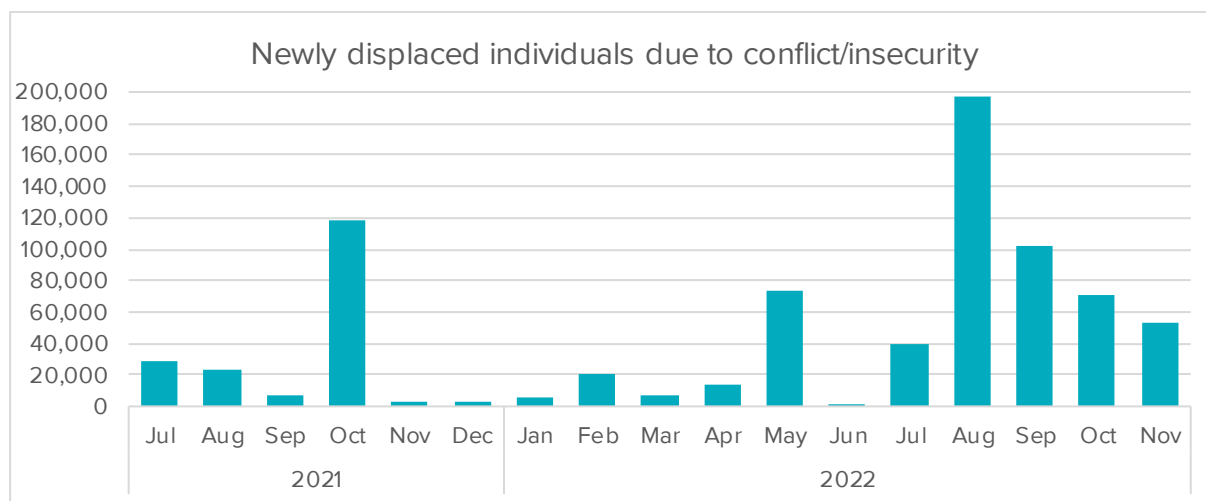


Figure 13. Number of newly displaced individuals due to conflict/insecurity per month in the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on UNHCR PRMN data.²⁹³

As reported by UNOCHA, '[c]onflict related shocks that trigger internal displacement negatively affect the humanitarian situation of both IDP and host communities'.²⁹⁴ In most Somali regions, individuals displaced due to conflict and insecurity were displaced within the respective region; this was not the case in Bay, Middle Juba, Lower Shabelle and Togdheer regions.²⁹⁵ For an overview of conflict/insecurity induced displacements per administrative regions (departures and arrivals) in the reference period of this report, please see [Figure 14](#) below. For more detailed information on the regional level, please see section [2. Regional security situation and trends](#).

²⁹³ EUAA analysis based on UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

²⁹⁴ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), p. 23

²⁹⁵ EUAA analysis based on UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

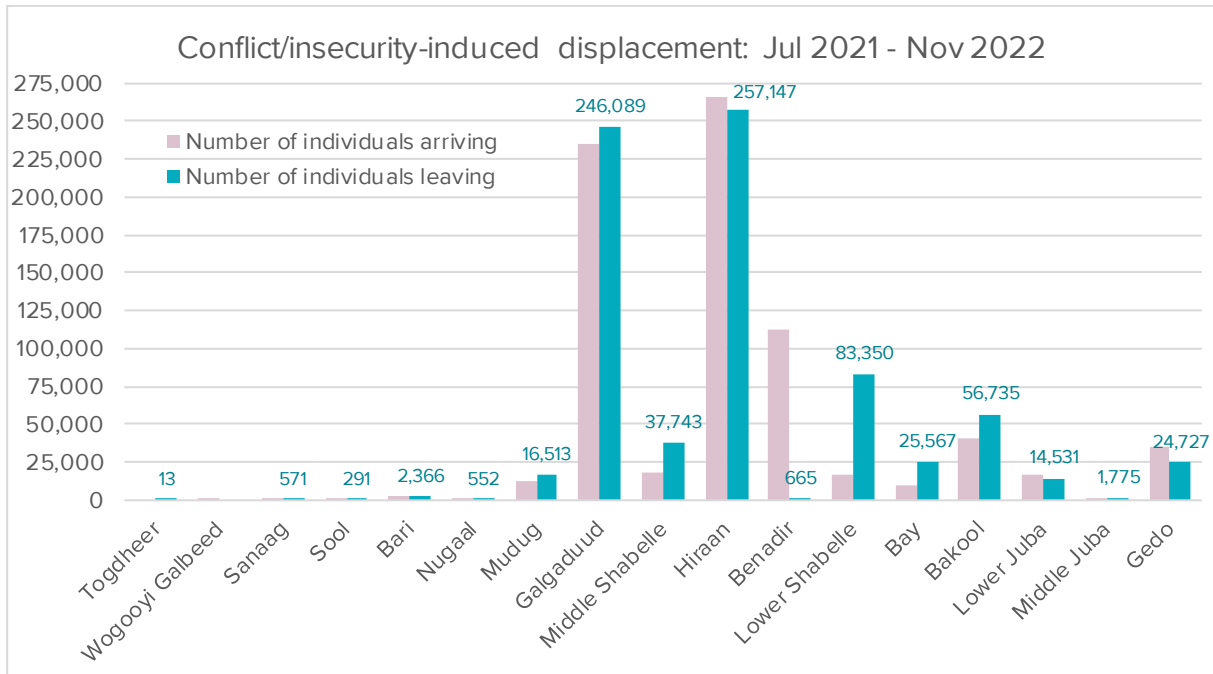


Figure 14. Number of newly displaced individuals arriving and leaving in Somali administrative regions in the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on UNHCR PRMN data.²⁹⁶ Please note that the numbers displayed in the figure are those of individuals leaving.

In October 2021, UNOCHA reported that the majority of IDPs relocate to peri-urban informal settlements, where they encounter various precarious conditions, which include repeated evictions, restricted access to basic services and rights, and inadequate shelter.²⁹⁷ (For more detailed information on evictions, please see section [1.4.3 Other impacts on civilian life](#)) Detailed assessments of 2 986 IDP sites conducted by the REACH and the CCCM Cluster in November and December 2021 across Somalia indicated the following severity classifications: Concerning food security and livelihoods, health, housing, land and property, protection as well as water, sanitation and hygiene ‘extreme’ (severity score 4 out of 4), in terms of education as well as shelter and non-food-items ‘severe’ (severity score 3 out of 4), and regarding nutrition ‘stress’ (severity score 2 out of 4).²⁹⁸ In terms of protection, a November 2022 NRC and UNHCR briefing paper on conflict-induced displacement in Somalia highlighted the precarious situation of women and children, and in particular female-headed households, in IDP sites. They reportedly did not feel safe in their makeshift shelters, with IDP sites lacking police posts and lighting along the paths leading to sanitation facilities, which further increased the risk of assaults. Incidents of gender-based violence continued to be under-reported for fear of stigmatisation and repercussions.²⁹⁹

²⁹⁶ EUAA analysis based on UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

²⁹⁷ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), pp. 27-28

²⁹⁸ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA), June 2022, [url](#), p. 1

²⁹⁹ NRC and UNHCR, Living in Fear - Conflict-induced displacements in Somalia: Protection gaps, risks and needs, 17 November 2022, [url](#), p. 5



1.4.3. Other impacts on civilian life

In October 2021, UNOCHA estimated a total of 7.7 million Somalis to be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022.³⁰⁰ This number was significantly higher than the estimated 5.9 million people in need in Somalia the year before.³⁰¹ The general humanitarian situation remained precarious,³⁰² with the conflict reportedly rendering Somalia ‘one of the least developed countries in the world’,³⁰³ destroying its economic infrastructure,³⁰⁴ exacerbating food insecurity,³⁰⁵ weakening the educational system,³⁰⁶ and intensifying humanitarian needs, displacement and protection concerns³⁰⁷.

Due to the ongoing threat of IEDs along major supply routes, residents of areas with a high prevalence of IED incidents and areas currently controlled by anti-government elements³⁰⁸ faced limited access to humanitarian assistance.³⁰⁹ According to USDOS, armed groups intentionally curtailed the movement of relief supplies and other items, as well as humanitarian access, notably in southern and central Somalia.³¹⁰ Between July and September 2021, UNOCHA documented 30 humanitarian access incidents³¹¹ within the country;³¹² between January and March 2022, 25 such incidents were documented³¹³. No such data was available for the period between October and December 2021 and between April and October 2022.

(a) Infrastructure Damage

Civilian infrastructure was reported to be frequently caught in the crossfire of the fight against Al-Shabaab.³¹⁴ In November 2022, information from the United Nations Human Rights Office indicated that Al-Shabaab had destroyed numerous wells in prior months. Al-Shabaab also destroyed part of the bank of the Shabelle River, houses, a bridge, crippled telecommunications infrastructure,³¹⁵ and disrupted 11 schools.³¹⁶ Al-Shabaab attacks on civilian infrastructure were reportedly in apparent retaliation for Somali and international forces’

³⁰⁰ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), p. 7

³⁰¹ UNOCHA, 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, January 2021, [url](#), p. 6

³⁰² SOYDA, Quarterly Progressive Narrative Report, 4 January 2022, [url](#), p. 2

³⁰³ Belgium, CGRS-CEDOCA, Somalia - Veiligheidssituatie in Mogadishu [Security Situation in Mogadishu], 9 September 2022, [url](#), p. 45

³⁰⁴ UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Somalia: Report of the Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in Somalia, A/HRC/51/65, 19 August 2022, [url](#), para. 88

³⁰⁵ IFRC, Somalia | Hunger Crisis 2021-2022 (18 July 2021 to 31 July 2023), 20 May 2022, [url](#), p. 3

³⁰⁶ ECW, ECW in Somalia, n.d., [url](#)

³⁰⁷ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), p. 16

³⁰⁸ FIC, Another Humanitarian (and Political) Crisis in Somalia in 2022, June 2022, [url](#), p. 4

³⁰⁹ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), pp. 104-105

³¹⁰ USDOS, 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Somalia, 12 April 2022, [url](#), p. 15

³¹¹ Such incidents include the following types: ‘ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance’, ‘ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance’ and ‘armed hostilities preventing access’. UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), p. 1

³¹² UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), p. 1

³¹³ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 1 (January - March 2022), 17 July 2022, [url](#), p. 1

³¹⁴ Just Security, Bombing for Peace in Somalia? Time for a Different Approach, 28 September 2022, [url](#)

³¹⁵ East African (The), Al-Shabaab militants target Somalia’s telecom infrastructure, 9 November 2022, [url](#)

³¹⁶ OHCHR, Somalia: Türk decries steep rise in civilian casualties amid surge in Al-Shabaab attacks, 14 November 2022, [url](#)



offensives against the group.³¹⁷ In its annual report for 2021, AI also reported on repeated attacks by Al-Shabaab on civilian infrastructure such as restaurants and hotels.³¹⁸

In the reference period, hospitals were affected by the conflict for example in Gedo region³¹⁹ (for more detailed information, see [2.1.1\(c\) Recent security incidents and trends](#)) or in Galgaduud region³²⁰ (for more detailed information, see section [2.5.1\(c\) Recent security incidents and trends](#)).

(b) Evictions

In 2019, the FGS adopted the National Eviction Guidelines, which provides for the responsibility of the FGS ‘to refrain from, and protect against, arbitrary and forced eviction of occupiers of public and private properties, from homes, encampments and lands’.³²¹ As per Art. 3.1 of these guidelines evictions may only be carried out in ‘exceptional and unavoidable circumstances’, and if ‘no other alternative or practical measures of intervention exist’.³²² However, as noted in a September 2021 NRC publication, the National Eviction Guidelines are ‘not binding and do not alter the status quo’ and action is still needed to guarantee they become a ‘robust legal instrument’.³²³

As of September 2021, forced evictions³²⁴ were reported to be among the most serious and prevalent protection risks in Somalia, both causing and exacerbating displacement within the country. Especially for displaced persons, forced evictions constitute a major protection challenge.³²⁵ According to UNOCHA, the majority of IDPs in Somalia do not hold official documents for the land on which they live, which makes them subject to repeated evictions.³²⁶ A September 2021 study on forced evictions in southern Somalia found that evictions had far-reaching impacts on already marginalized populations, including increased vulnerability to violence, loss of assets and social networks, sexual assault, destruction of livelihoods, and separation of families.³²⁷ Moreover, poverty and forced evictions were reported to be mutually dependent and reinforcing.³²⁸ For the period between 2018 and 2021, a declining trend in

³¹⁷ Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Atrocity Alert No. 324: Somalia, Ukraine and Justice for Past Atrocities, 2 November 2022, [url](#)

³¹⁸ AI, Amnesty International Report – The State of the World’s Human Rights, Somalia, 29 March 2022, [url](#), p. 330

³¹⁹ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#)

³²⁰ Goobjoog, Al-Shabaab overruns Elbur district hospital in Galgaduud region, 20 June 2022, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Somalia: Caught between drought and fighting, 8 December 2021, [url](#); Keymedia, UN strongly condemns shelling of hospitals in Somalia, 26 October 2021, [url](#)

³²¹ Somalia, Federal Government of Somalia, National Eviction Guidelines, 2019, [url](#), art. 2.1

³²² Somalia, Federal Government of Somalia, National Eviction Guidelines, 2019, [url](#), art. 3.1

³²³ NRC, “I want my land. You have to go.” Understanding the eviction phenomenon in Baidoa, 16 September 2021, [url](#), p. 26

³²⁴ NRC defines ‘forced evictions’ as the ‘removal against their will of people from their homes and/or land which they occupy, without any form of legal or other protection’. NRC, An Unnecessary Burden: Forced Evictions and Covid-19, 1 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1

³²⁵ NRC, “I want my land. You have to go.” Understanding the eviction phenomenon in Baidoa, 16 September 2021, [url](#), p. 4, 12

³²⁶ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), p. 7

³²⁷ Jelle, M. et al., Forced evictions and their social and health impacts in Southern Somalia: a qualitative study in Mogadishu Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, September 2021, [url](#), p. 2

³²⁸ NRC, “I want my land. You have to go.” Understanding the eviction phenomenon in Baidoa, 16 September 2021, [url](#), p. 12



annual eviction statistics was reported.³²⁹ Data accessed through the NRC Eviction Information Portal³³⁰ recorded 203 077 individuals being forcibly evicted in Somalia for the period July 2021 to November 2022.³³¹ For more detailed information on the regional level, please see section [2. Regional security situation and trends](#).

1.4.4. Checkpoints and road security in Somalia

According to a May 2022 publication by the IFRC, ‘many areas of southern and central Somalia can best be defined as conflict zones, where overland travel is highly hazardous.’³³² In general, travelling throughout Somalia entails safety challenges,³³³ including ‘periodic combat’ and ‘attacks on civilians’.³³⁴ However, as an international expert noted, the average Somali can move around and travel by road.³³⁵

According to the international expert, the situation is different for members of the police or military, AMISOM/ATMIS, Somali politicians and civil servants, as they are potential targets for assassination or kidnapping. Thus, in terms of travel security, it depends on who you are and what you do. For example, while the military would regard the route from Mogadishu to Baidoa as a high-risk corridor due to Al-Shabaab control over the area around Leego, most civilian traffic passes through without major issues. However, civilians are also at risk of incidents due to IEDs planted on routes that might be triggered by accident. Civil servants, persons affiliated with the government or military personnel, tend to be wary when traveling by road, because, once outside the district centres, they might come across an Al-Shabaab roadblock. AMISOM/ATMIS and SNA movements are regularly targeted by Al-Shabaab, often with IEDs. AMISOM/ATMIS is always targeted. In terms of overall incidents, due to the extensive presence of both pro-Government and Al-Shabaab forces, the routes through Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle and Hiraan are amongst the most problematic and reflect the intent of both to control the areas.³³⁶

In general, movement is subject to checkpoints and to various taxes collected by whichever armed actor controls the checkpoint.³³⁷ Both local administrations and Al-Shabaab are reliant on revenue from checkpoints to fund their activities.³³⁸ As reported by the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC), in most cases, commercial drivers prefer

³²⁹ Somalia Protection Cluster, Protection Analysis Update, 9 February 2022, [url](#), p. 17; NRC, “I want my land. You have to go.” Understanding the eviction phenomenon in Baidoa [Figure], 16 September 2021, [url](#), p. 12

³³⁰ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

³³¹ NRC, Eviction Information Portal, Data Sets, Somalia – July 2021–November 2022, as of 9 December 2022, [url](#)

³³² IFRC, Somalia | Hunger Crisis 2021–2022 (18 July 2021 to 31 July 2023), 20 May 2022, [url](#), p. 5

³³³ International expert, email, 29 December 2022

³³⁴ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2022 – Somalia, 24 February 2022, [url](#)

³³⁵ International expert, email, 29 December 2022. The international expert works for an international organisation based in Somalia and has expertise in the field of security as well as several years of relevant field experience in the country.

³³⁶ International expert, email, 29 December 2022

³³⁷ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2022 – Somalia, 24 February 2022, [url](#); International expert, email, 29 December 2022

³³⁸ International expert, email, 29 December 2022



passing through Al-Shabaab checkpoints rather than being repeatedly³³⁹ extorted by federal or regional security forces or other armed actors.³⁴⁰ According to the international expert, Somali businesspeople and communities have learned to adapt to this environment and the often-evolving competition for checkpoint control amongst different groups. Within certain limits, people try to pay whoever they perceive is the dominant security provider in the area to ensure safe passage for themselves/their commodities. Senior government officials and politicians, wherever possible, tend to travel by air.³⁴¹

Al-Shabaab reportedly ‘maintained its presence across rural areas, controlled supply routes to most cities and have established checkpoints on main streets where it extracted taxes on goods and passengers’.³⁴² As noted in the abovementioned GI-TOC report, in southern Somalia, Al-Shabaab holds dozens of checkpoints manned by Al-Shabaab tax officials. Vehicles that cross such checkpoints are usually registered with Al-Shabaab’s tax authorities. If this is not the case, the driver has to pay a registration fee and provide information about the vehicle and its owner. At the checkpoint, Al-Shabaab officials determine the amount to be paid based on the destination, the size of the vehicle, and/or the type of goods being carried.³⁴³

As of December 2022, Al-Shabaab’s tax system was described as being ‘reasonably well-organized’³⁴⁴ or as a ‘sophisticated and efficient “taxation” apparatus’,³⁴⁵ where an average Somali pays only once at the beginning of a road, receives a receipt that is used to pass through any remaining Al-Shabaab checkpoints without having to pay again.³⁴⁶ In areas not controlled by Al-Shabaab, there is not always such a unified system in place. The use of secondary roads to avoid taxation has become quite pointless, as these roads are now monitored as well and main entrances and exits of government-controlled cities are unavoidable and taxed.³⁴⁷ According to the GI-TOC report, ‘[t]he militant group is believed to generate a significant budget surplus, and by some estimates it generates more revenue than the Federal Government of Somalia’.³⁴⁸

Al-Shabaab reportedly implements its tax system by the means of intelligence collection and threats of extreme violence against those who fail to pay the claimed fees.³⁴⁹ If drivers do not pay Al-Shabaab taxes or try to avoid checkpoints, they may face fines twice as high as the taxes they would otherwise have paid. ‘These non-negotiable fines might be issued by text message, or vehicle owners or drivers might be summoned by SMS to al-Shabaab courts

³³⁹ According to a 2018 UN Report, Al-Shabaab ‘does not doubly tax drivers who have [already] paid at another location’. UN Security Council, Letter dated 7 November 2018 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751(1992) and 1907(2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2018/1002, 9 November 2018, [url](#), para. 86

³⁴⁰ GI-TOC, Terror and Taxes. Inside al-Shabaab’s revenue-collection machine, 8 December 2022, [url](#), p. 1

³⁴¹ International expert, email, 29 December 2022

³⁴² Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2022 Country Report – Somalia, 23 February 2022, [url](#) p. 6

³⁴³ GI-TOC, Terror and Taxes. Inside al-Shabaab’s revenue-collection machine, 8 December 2022, [url](#), p. 5

³⁴⁴ International expert, email, 29 December 2022

³⁴⁵ GI-TOC, Terror and Taxes. Inside al-Shabaab’s revenue-collection machine, 8 December 2022, [url](#), p. 1

³⁴⁶ International expert, email, 29 December 2022; GI-TOC, Terror and Taxes. Inside al-Shabaab’s revenue-collection machine, 8 December 2022, [url](#), p. 5

³⁴⁷ International expert, email, 29 December 2022

³⁴⁸ GI-TOC, Terror and Taxes. Inside al-Shabaab’s revenue-collection machine, 8 December 2022, [url](#), p. 1

³⁴⁹ GI-TOC, Terror and Taxes. Inside al-Shabaab’s revenue-collection machine, 8 December 2022, [url](#), p. 1

located outside government-controlled areas.’ Even within Somalia’s capital, Al-Shabaab tax officials ‘freely employ intimidation tactics’.³⁵⁰

1.5. Documents for accessing Somalia and Somaliland

1.5.1. Documents for accessing Somalia for Somalis and ethnic Somalis by air and land

(a) Identity documents

Somalis mainly identify themselves through their clan identity,³⁵¹ while only a small number of individuals tend to have valid identity documents at all.³⁵² The IRB reported that, according to different sources interviewed in 2022, in Somalia there was no ‘centralized infrastructure to manage civil identification. As a result, reliable national identification is currently not available.’³⁵³ Landinfo noted in 2021 that, since 1991, ‘most people have lived their lives without requirements for [birth] registration and ID documents’.³⁵⁴ Similarly, UNHCR stated in 2022 that the majority of Somali returnees in Somalia interviewed as part of a post-return monitoring (PRM) snapshot³⁵⁵ reported that all or some members of the households did not have ID documents; however, that did not have any impact on them since their return. However, it has to be noted that, according to the same source, out of the households who reported challenges due to the lack of documents which amounted to 350 (14% of the total households), more than half had issues accessing services while 28 % faced issues at checkpoints.³⁵⁶ Landinfo added that ‘To the extent that Somalis obtain ID documents from the Somali authorities, they usually only do so when they need a passport...’.³⁵⁷

(b) Issuing of documents

According to Dr Bakonyi, passports and visas are issued by the Ministry for Internal Security, within which the Immigration Department is located.³⁵⁸ To receive a passport from Somalia, an individual needs a birth certificate issued by the local government, a support letter from a clan

³⁵⁰ GI-TOC, Terror and Taxes. Inside al-Shabaab’s revenue-collection machine, 8 December 2022, [url](#), p. 16

³⁵¹ Hansen, S.J., Online interview with EUAA, 6 January 2023; Norway, Landinfo, Somalia: Date of birth, age and calendar, 17 February 2021, [url](#), p. 3

³⁵² Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023; Hansen, S.J., Online interview with EUAA, 6 January 2022

³⁵³ Canada, IRB (Immigration and Refugee Board), Somalia: Ability to obtain documentation, including medical, education and employment records; effectiveness of the postal service, on both domestic and international level (2020–January 2022), 28 January 2022, [url](#)

³⁵⁴ Norway, Landinfo, Somalia: Date of birth, age and calendar, 17 February 2021, [url](#), p. 2

³⁵⁵ This post-return monitoring (PRM) data collection exercise commenced in November 2017 with the last round of interviews between July and August 2022. The data is based on eight rounds of interviews conducted with 3 251 returnee households across different return locations in Somalia. Source: UNHCR Somalia, Somalia Post Refugee Return Monitoring Snapshot Round 8, September 2022, [url](#), p.1

³⁵⁶ UNHCR Somalia, Somalia Post Refugee Return Monitoring Snapshot Round 8, September 2022, [url](#), p. 4

³⁵⁷ Norway, Landinfo, Somalia: Date of birth, age and calendar, 17 February 2021, [url](#), p. 3

³⁵⁸ Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023

elder and a Criminal Investigation Department (CID) security check. If the individual lives outside Somalia, they reportedly either need the birth certificate or the clan elder letter.³⁵⁹

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, according to confidential sources, noted that a passport applicant had to pay a fee of USD 98.50 for adults and USD 55.00 for minors under the age of 15 and would receive a receipt, with what was described as ‘regular rumours’ of additional charges to the aforementioned fees.³⁶⁰ Dr Bakonyi noted that ‘it is possible to obtain a passport without a bribe, but it will take a long time’, and that the procedure is affected by corruption, regardless of whether the individual lives in or out of Somalia. ‘With a bribe’, she states ‘a passport can be issued within days’.³⁶¹ Dr Hansen noted that in general there are a lot of problems with the issuing of documents; government officials are underpaid, and the process is therefore open to corruption.³⁶²

Landinfo indicated that ‘all passport applications are sent to the main office of the Somali Immigration and Naturalization Directorate (IND) for checking, approval and issuance.’³⁶³ A 2019 Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs report noted that the IND opened passport application centres throughout Somalia, electronically linked to the central server in Mogadishu and that applications could also be submitted to certain authorized Somali embassies. All passports are printed at the same location, the issuing centre, and are distributed to the various application centres and embassies.³⁶⁴

Interviewed sources agree that it is also possible to apply at a Somali embassy for a passport and for all the visa related documents.³⁶⁵ According to Dr Hansen, clan connections (for example family) are very important to ease this process.³⁶⁶ Non-Somali citizens traveling to Somalia (including ethnic Somalis with foreign passports) can also get a visa through embassies or at the border if they have an invitation from a recognized institution. Many non-citizens have contacts to a partner organisation in either Somalia or Somaliland who process the visa for them through official channels.³⁶⁷ Dr Bakonyi stated that a visa can be obtained at the border of Somalia and at the embassies.³⁶⁸ She added that she is not aware of corruption in the procedure of obtaining a visa.

According to representatives of IND in Mogadishu and Kismayo that Landinfo met in February 2019, ethnic Somalis from Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti and other countries can also get Somali passports. This information was corroborated in 2019 by the Somali Embassy in Nairobi and a western diplomat familiar with Somali issues.³⁶⁹

³⁵⁹ Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023

³⁶⁰ Netherlands (the), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Country of Origin Information Report on South and Central Somalia, March 2019, available at: [url](#), pp. 29-30

³⁶¹ Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023

³⁶² Hansen, S.J., Online interview with EUAA, 6 January 2023

³⁶³ Norway, Landinfo, Somalia: Passport application at the Somali Embassy in Brussels, 21 May 2019, [url](#), p. 1

³⁶⁴ Netherlands (the), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Country of Origin Information Report on South and Central Somalia, March 2019, available at: [url](#), pp. 29-30

³⁶⁵ Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023; Hansen, S.J., Online interview with EUAA, 6 January 2023

³⁶⁶ Hansen, S.J., Online interview with EUAA, 6 January 2023

³⁶⁷ Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023

³⁶⁸ Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023

³⁶⁹ Norway, Landinfo, Somalia: Passport application at the Somali Embassy in Brussels, 21 May 2019, [url](#), p. 3



For the issuing of Somali passport to Somalilanders in Somaliland see section [1.5.2\(f\) Documents for Somalilanders Accessing Somalian and vice versa.](#)

(c) Accessing Somalia by air and by land

To access Somalia by air or land, Somali citizens, among them ethnic Somalis and members of minority groups require a passport. Visas are not required for Somali citizens.³⁷⁰ Visas³⁷¹ are required for foreigners including ethnic Somalis who do not have Somali citizenship (and subsequently no Somali passport). For example, an ethnic Somali from Kenya has to have his/her Kenyan passport and a visa to access Somalia.³⁷² Dr Hansen noted that Somalis and ethnic Somalis can access Somalia ‘either with a passport or with a public id’, and stressed the importance of ‘connections’.³⁷³ According to the same expert, however, depending on an individual’s network and connections, it could be possible ‘to circumvent the need for documents’ to access Somalia.³⁷⁴

As per Somalia’s Provisional Constitution, ‘every citizen has the right to enter and to remain in the country, and has the right to a passport’.³⁷⁵ PRADO, the Public Register of Authentic identity and travel Documents Online of the Council of the European Union, provides examples of the Somali passports from different years.³⁷⁶ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, according to confidential sources, reported that that the Somali passport contained both biographical and biometric data.³⁷⁷

(d) Land borders

Different sources highlighted that Somalia’s land borders are porous, with large parts of the borders being unchecked and that therefore people can travel across them without any documentation.³⁷⁸ According to a source interviewed by the IRB in 2022, there were no immigration officers stationed at the Somali land borders, making it not feasible to obtain a visa or a passport stamp at a land border. Another source noted that while passport stamps were a standard procedure at the main Somali airports, at land borders and at the smaller

³⁷⁰ Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023; Hansen, S.J., Online interview with EUAA, 6 January 2023

³⁷¹ Information on visas, such as documents needed and fees can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Source: Somalia, Immigration & Naturalization Directorate of Somalia, Visa Issuance, n.d., [url](#)

³⁷² Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023

³⁷³ Hansen, S.J., Online interview with EUAA, 6 January 2023

³⁷⁴ Hansen, S.J., Online interview with EUAA, 6 January 2023

³⁷⁵ ILO, The Federal Republic of Somalia, Provisional Constitution, 1 August 2012, [url](#), p.5

³⁷⁶ EU, PRADO, SOM – Somalia, n.d., [url](#)

³⁷⁷ Netherlands (The), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Country of Origin Information Report on South and Central Somalia, March 2019, available at: [url](#), pp. 29-30

³⁷⁸ Hansen, S.J., Online interview with EUAA, 6 January 2023; Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023; Canada, Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB), Somalia: Update to SOM200233 on entry and exit requirements at land borders and airports, including documentation required; whether there are checkpoints for domestic and international travel; whether there are travel agencies that facilitate travel within and outside Somalia (2018–January 2022), 7 January 2022, [url](#)



airports 'a person could "request" that the stamp be placed on the "proof of payment" for their visa instead of their passport'.³⁷⁹

1.5.2. Documents for accessing Somaliland for Somalis and ethnic Somalis by air and land

(a) Identity documents

According to a source interviewed by UNHCR in 2021, national identity cards were being issued in accordance with the Somaliland National ID Project, and were increasingly required to access services.³⁸⁰ Both Dr Jutta Bakonyi and Dr Stig Hansen noted that ID use is limited in Somaliland.³⁸¹ Many middle-aged or older people who live in the West of Somaliland have lived or studied in Djibouti or Ethiopia and some also acquired passports from these countries often using family links from there.³⁸²

Somaliland issues its own passports; however, according to Landinfo, not to Somalis in general.³⁸³ As per Somaliland's Citizenship law, citizens are considered only those 'whose father is a descendent of persons who resided in the territory of Somaliland on 26 June 1960 and before'.³⁸⁴ Therefore, Landinfo noted, Somaliland citizenship is geographically and not ethnically restricted.³⁸⁵ In addition, Somaliland issues its own visas.³⁸⁶

(b) Issuing of documents

IDs and passports are issued by the Somaliland Immigration and Border Control under the Ministry of Interior of Somaliland.³⁸⁷ It is possible to apply at Somaliland's Representative Missions abroad for a passport and for all the visa related documents.³⁸⁸ The visa to access Somaliland is either issued through such missions - for example Somaliland's Mission to the UK processes visas - or at the border itself.³⁸⁹

³⁷⁹ Canada, IRB, Somalia: Update to SOM200233 on entry and exit requirements at land borders and airports, including documentation required; whether there are checkpoints for domestic and international travel; whether there are travel agencies that facilitate travel within and outside Somalia (2018–January 2022), 7 January 2022, [url](#)

³⁸⁰ UNHCR, Citizenship and statelessness in the Horn of Africa, December 2021, [url](#), p. 45; Neurotechnology, Somaliland National ID Project, 2015, [url](#)

³⁸¹ Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023; Hansen, S.J., Online interview with EUAA, 6 January 2023

³⁸² Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023

³⁸³ Norway, Landinfo, Somalia/Ethiopia: Søknad om somalisk pass i Nordvest-Somalia (Somaliland) [Somalia/Ethiopia: Application for a Somali passport in Northwest Somalia (Somaliland)], 30 September 2021, [url](#), pp. 1-2

³⁸⁴ Republic of Somaliland, Citizenship Law (LAW No: 22/2002), n.d., available at: [url](#), p. 2

³⁸⁵ Norway, Landinfo, Somalia/Ethiopia: Søknad om somalisk pass i Nordvest-Somalia (Somaliland) [Somalia/Ethiopia: Application for a Somali passport in Northwest Somalia (Somaliland)], 30 September 2021, [url](#), pp. 1-2

³⁸⁶ Republic of Somaliland, Somaliland Immigration, Visa Section, n.d., [url](#)

³⁸⁷ Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023

³⁸⁸ Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023

³⁸⁹ Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023



(c) Accessing and leaving Somaliland

According to the Somaliland Immigration Law 1995, Article 4. Conditions for entering the territory of Somaliland, 'A foreigner may be allowed enter into the territory of Somaliland if he has:

- a. A valid passport or a similar travel document or possession of a document showing his correct name and which was issued to the person in the document.
- b. A valid permit of entry and stay in the territory of Somaliland in accordance with this Law.³⁹⁰

The document needed to access Somaliland for foreigners and Somalilanders (ethnic Somalilanders and Somalilanders belonging to minority groups), by air and by land is a passport.³⁹¹ If an ethnic Somali who is a citizen in another country (including Somalia) and does not have a Somaliland passport wants to enter Somaliland at an official border crossing, they need a visa.³⁹² In 2022 UNHCR reported that individuals not from Somaliland, who arrive at Somaliland from Puntland or South and Central Somalia must have a passport or national ID and will be asked to pay a fee of 15 USD for a visa upon arrival.³⁹³

According to Dr Bakonyi, people who want to obtain a visa for Somaliland often have a contact in Somaliland and this contact processes the visa application for the individual. The individual shares all the necessary documents online, their passport, a photo (not the payment, which is processed at the airport), an invitation letter and the contact then processes the visa. The individual gets a copy of the visa via email. The original visa is received at the border. The authorities at the border 'check if they have the original visa and if they do, they put the visa stamp on the passport'. The cost is 60 USD.³⁹⁴

(d) Air travel

The UNHCR office in Mogadishu informed IRB in 2020 that foreigners entering through Somaliland airports must have a valid passport and entry visa for Somaliland.³⁹⁵ Ethnic Somalis can get a visa upon arrival at all points of entry of Somaliland.³⁹⁶ The German Foreign Office specified that, in Somaliland, a visa can be applied for "on arrival" for stays of up to 30 days at the airports in Berbera, Borema, Burao, Erigavo and Hargeisa. An invitation is required as

³⁹⁰ Republic of Somaliland, Somaliland Immigration Law 1995, translated by ILO (International Labour Organization), available at: [url](#), pp. 5-6

³⁹¹ Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023; Netherlands (the), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Country of Origin Information Report on South and Central Somalia, March 2019, available at: [url](#), p. 15

³⁹² Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023

³⁹³ UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), International Protection Considerations with Regard to People Fleeing Somalia, September 2022, [url](#), p. 126

³⁹⁴ Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023

³⁹⁵ Canada, IRB (Immigration and Refugee Board), Somalia: Update to SOM200233 on entry and exit requirements at land borders and airports, including documentation required; whether there are checkpoints for domestic and international travel; whether there are travel agencies that facilitate travel within and outside Somalia (2018–January 2022), 7 January 2022, [url](#)

³⁹⁶ Canada, IRB (Immigration and Refugee Board), Somalia: Update to SOM200233 on entry and exit requirements at land borders and airports, including documentation required; whether there are checkpoints for domestic and international travel; whether there are travel agencies that facilitate travel within and outside Somalia (2018–January 2022), 7 January 2022, [url](#)





proof of the purpose of the stay, without which entry can be refused. Visa fees must be paid on site in USD cash.³⁹⁷

(e) Land borders

The UNHCR office in Mogadishu informed IRB that, at land borders in Somaliland, Somali citizens must present a national ID and foreigners must have entry and exit visas, while citizens with passports will have them stamped upon both entry and exit from immigration officials at was described as "official entry points".³⁹⁸ According to Dr Bakonyi, visas are not issued at the land border with Djibouti.³⁹⁹

(f) Documents for Somalilanders accessing Somalia and vice versa

According to Dr Bakonyi, Somalilanders need a Somali passport or ID to access Somalia by air.⁴⁰⁰ Somalilanders who want to enter Somalia are not considered foreigners and do not need a visa as they are considered part of the Federal Republic of Somalia.⁴⁰¹ Somalia does not recognize the Somaliland passport. If people from Somaliland have a Somali passport, they can enter Somalia, 'if they don't, they can't via air travel'. They can however via land, as Somalia does not recognize any official border between itself and Somaliland. Given that few people have passports, travel between Somaliland and Somalia is common.⁴⁰² Landinfo noted that it is possible to apply for a Somali passport in different places in Somaliland. These places are referred to as "travel agencies".⁴⁰³ Somali authorities reportedly indicated that there were places accepting applications for Somali passports in Hargeisa, Burao (Burco), Badhan, Buhodle and Balanbale.⁴⁰⁴

Regarding Somalis, the UNHCR office in Mogadishu informed the IRB that Somali citizens not 'originating' from Somaliland had to pay a visa fee.⁴⁰⁵ More specifically, according to Dr Bakonyi, in Somaliland, people from Somalia who do not belong to one of the dominant clans in Somaliland (Cisse, Isaaq, Dulbahante, Warsangeli, Gadabursi) are considered foreigners and need a visa.⁴⁰⁶ Dr Hansen noted that for Somalis from the south traveling to Somaliland 'it is good to have some kind of visa'.⁴⁰⁷

³⁹⁷ Germany, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Somalia: Travel and Safety Advice (Travel Warning), 18 December 2022, <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/ReiseUndSicherheit/somaliasicherheit/203132>

³⁹⁸ Canada, IRB (Immigration and Refugee Board), Somalia: Update to SOM200233 on entry and exit requirements at land borders and airports, including documentation required; whether there are checkpoints for domestic and international travel; whether there are travel agencies that facilitate travel within and outside Somalia (2018–January 2022), 7 January 2022, [url](#)

³⁹⁹ Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023

⁴⁰⁰ Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023

⁴⁰¹ Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023

⁴⁰² Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023

⁴⁰³ Norway, Landinfo, Somalia/Ethiopia: Søknad om somalisk pass i Nordvest-Somalia (Somaliland) [Somalia/Ethiopia: Application for a Somali passport in Northwest Somalia (Somaliland)], 30 September 2021, [url](#), p. 2

⁴⁰⁴ Norway, Landinfo, Somalia/Ethiopia: Søknad om somalisk pass i Nordvest-Somalia (Somaliland) [Somalia/Ethiopia: Application for a Somali passport in Northwest Somalia (Somaliland)], 30 September 2021, [url](#), p. 2

⁴⁰⁵ Canada, IRB, Somalia: Entry and exit requirements at land borders and airports, including documentation required; whether there are checkpoints for domestic and international travel; whether there are travel agencies that facilitate travel within and outside Somalia (2018–August 2020), 3 September 2020, [url](#)

⁴⁰⁶ Bakonyi, J., Online interview with EUAA, 4 January 2023

⁴⁰⁷ Hansen, S.J., Online interview with EUAA, 6 January 2023





2. Regional security situation and trends

2.1. Jubbaland

2.1.1. Gedo

(a) Background

Gedo region is Somalia's second-largest region.⁴⁰⁸ It is located in the south-west corner of the country and shares international borders with Kenya to the south-west and Ethiopia to the north-west. It also has internal borders with the following regions: Bakool to the north-east, Bay to the east and Middle Jubba and Lower Jubba to the south, respectively. The region consists of six districts: Garbahaarey, Luuq, Doolow, Belet Xaawo (or Bulo Hawa), Ceel Waaq (or El Waq) and Bardhere (or Baardheere). The region's capital is Garbahaarey.⁴⁰⁹ The largest cities are Bardhere and Belet Xaawo. The clan composition of Gedo is diverse. The largest and most politically and militarily powerful clan is the Marehan (Darood), who dominates virtually all of the territory west of the Jubba river. On the east bank, the Rahanweyn clan predominates in rural areas.⁴¹⁰ For more detailed and historical information on the clan composition in Gedo region, including information on sub-clans, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

A December 2022 IPC document listed the population of Gedo as 938 249 in 2022.⁴¹¹ UNOCHA estimated the population of Gedo in 2021 at 736 706 (including 119 716 men, 115 001 women, 474 236 children, and 27 753 elderly people).⁴¹² The 2014 Population Estimation Survey conducted by UNFPA and the Somali authorities⁴¹³ estimated the population⁴¹⁴ of Gedo at 508 405, of whom 109 142 lived in urban areas, 177 742 in rural areas, and 144 793 were nomads.⁴¹⁵ For figures on IDPs, see subsection below on conflict-related displacement.

⁴⁰⁸ UN Habitat and IOM, Doolow – Urban Profile, November 2018, [url](#), p. 8

⁴⁰⁹ MSF, Somalia – General Reference Map, 11 October 2022, [url](#); UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#)

⁴¹⁰ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 46

⁴¹¹ IPC, Nearly 8.3 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes [Table], 13 December 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁴¹² UNOCHA, Somalia – 2021 Population Figures and Disaggregation, 7 December 2021, [url](#)

⁴¹³ According to the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) of 2020, the 2014 Population Estimation Survey of Somalia 'is the most recent nationwide population estimation exercise undertaken in Somalia.' Somalia, NBS, The Somali Health and Demographic Survey 2020, 30 April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

⁴¹⁴ As of 2022, the 2014 estimates remain the figures used in the latest official publications of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). See e.g., Somalia, Somalia Data Portal, Population – Dashboards, 1 March 2022, [url](#)

⁴¹⁵ UNFPA, Population Estimation Survey 2014, Somalia, October 2014, [url](#), p. 31



(b) Actors' presence and conflict dynamics

Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence (along with other actors)

In the reference period, Al-Shabaab reportedly controlled parts of Gedo region.⁴¹⁶ According to [Map 4. Somalia - Approximate Territorial Control](#), as of 30 November 2022, Al-Shabaab reportedly controlled areas in and around Cows Qurun (or Ows Qurun) in the north-western part of Gedo bordering Kenya and in and around the city Ceel Adde (or El Adde) in the central part of Gedo as well as most of the areas bordering Middle Juba.⁴¹⁷ As documented by the UN Panel of Experts in October 2021, parts of Bardhere were also directly controlled by Al-Shabaab.⁴¹⁸ Further north, control over the area around Luuq up to the bordering areas to Kenya, Ethiopia and Bay and Bakool was reported to be mixed or unclear.⁴¹⁹ Another map by Political Geography Now as of 30 June 2021 shows identical territories of mixed/unclear control and control by Al-Shabaab in Gedo region as the more recent map as of November 2022 mentioned above.⁴²⁰

Sources reported that Al-Shabaab was present in Gedo region,⁴²¹ mentioning positions in Doolow and Luuq districts.⁴²² In February 2022, the vice-president of Jubbaland Mohamud Sayid Adan reportedly stated that Al-Shabaab had influence over 83 % of the communities in Gedo region, where they were carrying out trainings and had taken over the judiciary and the economy.⁴²³ Al-Shabaab also maintained an active network of informants and operatives in Gedo region towns.⁴²⁴

Clans played a major role in the regional politics in Gedo. The multiple clans in Gedo region pursued their interests with various means, including recourse to armed conflict. The Marehan were by far the most powerful clan, both in Gedo region and on the national political scene. They exercised 'hegemonic control' over Gedo region. Of the other clans, the Garre were most vigorous in pursuing claims to territory, business, and political rights inside Gedo region.⁴²⁵

⁴¹⁶ SMN, Ahmed Madobe returns to Kismayo after Dhobley visit, 4 July 2022, [url](#); SMN, Howlgallo ka dhan ah Al Shabaab oo ka bilaabanaya Jubbooyinka iyo Gedo [Operations against Al-Shabaab starting in Jubba and Gedo], 12 December 2022, [url](#)

⁴¹⁷ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

⁴¹⁸ UN Security Council, Letter dated 5 October 2021 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751(1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2021/849, 6 October 2021, [url](#), para. 11

⁴¹⁹ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

⁴²⁰ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 June 2021, n.a., non-public source

⁴²¹ VOA, Ethiopia Deploys New Troops into Neighboring Somalia, 8 August 2022, [url](#); SMN, Somali Govt forces carry out anti-al-Shababa operation in Gedo, 11 July 2022, [url](#); Xinhua, Somali forces seize control of al-Shabab bases in southern region, 11 July 2022, [url](#)

⁴²² SMN, Somali Govt forces carry out anti-al-Shababa operation in Gedo, 11 July 2022, [url](#); Xinhua, Somali forces seize control of al-Shabab bases in southern region, 11 July 2022, [url](#)

⁴²³ Horseed Media, Jubbaland oo war kasoo saartay xaaladda gobolka Gedo [Jubbaland released news about the situation in Gedo region], 10 February 2022, [url](#)

⁴²⁴ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 48

⁴²⁵ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 47

For more detailed information regarding various actors and their presence in Gedo up until 30 June 2021, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

Conflict dynamics

In recent years, political infighting based on rivalry between the FGS and Jubbaland state produced the most significant armed conflict in Gedo region.⁴²⁶ Following the election of Hassan Sheikh Mohamud as the new Somali president in May 2022,⁴²⁷ cooperation between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the Jubbaland state reportedly was restored.⁴²⁸

In the reference period, conflict dynamics included a number of operations carried out by government and AMISOM/ATMIS forces against Al-Shabaab in Gedo region.⁴²⁹ Sources affiliated with Al-Shabaab reported attacks carried out by the group for example⁴³⁰ against SNA forces,⁴³¹ FGS forces,⁴³² individuals accused of working for the Kenyan army⁴³³ and on

⁴²⁶ Hiiraan Online, Madobe says federal cooperation restored in Jubbaland, 21 May 2022, [url](#); WI, Return of Old Leader Presents New Opportunities in Somalia, 26 May 2022, [url](#); Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 48

⁴²⁷ International Crisis Group, New President in Somalia, New Opportunity for Reconciliation [Podcast], 27 May 2022, [url](#); East African (The), Somalia's Farmaajo hands over presidency to Mohamud, 23 May 2022, [url](#)

⁴²⁸ Hiiraan Online, Madobe says federal cooperation restored in Jubbaland, 21 May 2022, [url](#); Garowe Online, Wejiga cusub ee gobolka Gedo uu galayo iyo hubanti la'aan jirta [New developments in Gedo region and uncertainty], 22 October 2022, [url](#)

⁴²⁹ SMN, Somali army conducts operation against Al-Shabaab in Jubaland, 3 November 2021, [url](#); Radio Dalsan, Ciidanka Xoogga Oo La Wareegay Degaanno Ka Tirsan Gobolka Gedo [The Army Has Taken Over Areas In Gedo Region], 9 November 2021, [url](#); SMN, NISA carries out an operation in Gedo region, 23 June 2022, [url](#); SD, Government and Al-Shabaab forces clash in Gedo region, 10 July 2022, [url](#); Halbeeg, Somali forces can take over security responsibility of their country – AU, 27 September 2022, [url](#); MEE, Somalia: Turkey's Bayraktar TB2 drones join offensive against al-Shabab, 1 October 2022, [url](#)

⁴³⁰ Please note that these examples do not claim to be exhaustive.

⁴³¹ Radio Al-Furqan, Weeraro Lagu Dhaawacay Saraakiil Katirsan DF Oo Ka Dhacay Banaadir Iyo Gedo [Officers of special police force injured in attacks on Banaadir and Gedo], 28 August 2022, [url](#); Radio Al-Furqan, Al-Shabaab Oo Weeraro Ka Geystay Muqdisho Iyo Garbahaarey [Al-Shabaab Carried Out Attacks In Mogadishu And Garbahaarey], 29 May 2022, [url](#); Radio Al-Furqan, Qarax Dhimasho Iyo Dhaawac Ay Noqdeen Askarta DF Oo Ka Dhacay Gobolka Gedo [SNA soldiers killed and injured in Gedo region], 12 May 2022, [url](#)

⁴³² SomaliMemo, Taliyihii Nabad sugidda degmada Beled Xaawo iyo 4 askari oo ku dhintay dagaal ka dhacay Gedo [Commander and 4 soldiers died in a fight in Gedo's Beled Haawo district], 25 September 2022, [url](#)

⁴³³ Radio Al-Furqan, Howlgal Lagu Dilay Xabno La Shaqeynayay Sirdoonka Kenya Oo Ka Dhacay Gedo [Group cooperating with Kenyan intelligence killed in operation in Gedo], 31 July 2022, [url](#)

Ethiopian forces⁴³⁴, among others in the towns Belet Xaawo, Garbahaarey,⁴³⁵ Bardhere⁴³⁶ and Luuq⁴³⁷ and in Ceel Waaq district.⁴³⁸

On 10 July 2022, Somali security forces, according to a regional intelligence commander captured Al-Shabaab bases in Doolow and Luuq⁴³⁹ after attacks on civilians by Al-Shabaab had occurred in the two towns.⁴⁴⁰ Operations carried out in July 2022 by government forces in these two towns reportedly aimed at reopening regional roads that were captured by Al-Shabaab.⁴⁴¹ In September 2022, the Somali government reportedly claimed to have completed the liberation of over 60 areas from Al-Shabaab in operations which took place in Gedo and other Somali regions.⁴⁴² In October 2022, it was reported with reference to governmental sources that Al-Shabab lost ground in Gedo and other Somali regions, facing ‘the biggest offensive in recent years’ by Somali and AMISOM/ATMIS forces.⁴⁴³

Early-August 2022, Al-Shabaab forces reportedly gathered ‘in large numbers’ near the border in Gedo region. Ethiopian troops established bases in and around the border town Doolow.⁴⁴⁴ Ethiopian forces had already been stationed in Doolow before. An estimated 200 additional soldiers were deployed in the border areas at the time in order to support Somali forces in the fight against Al-Shabaab.⁴⁴⁵ Moreover, an Ethiopian military convoy was reportedly sent to Belet Xaawo to fight Al-Shabab forces.⁴⁴⁶

⁴³⁴ Radio Al-Furqan, Howlgallo Khasaare Culus Ka Dhashey Oo Ka Dhacay Gedo, Jubbooyinka Iyo Bakool [Operations That Resulted In Heavy Losses In Gedo, Jubba And Bakool], 14 May 2022, [url](#); Calamada, Dagaal Culus Oo Ciidamada Mujaahidiinta Iyo Xabashida Ku Dhexmaray Gedo [Heavy fighting between Mujahideen forces and Ethiopians in Gedo], 2 September 2022, [url](#)

⁴³⁵ SomaliMemo, Taliyihii Nabad sugidda degmada Beled Xaawo iyo 4 askari oo ku dhintay dagaal ka dhacay Gedo [Commander and 4 soldiers died in a fight in Gedo’s Beled Haawo district], 25 September 2022, [url](#); Radio Al-Furqan, Al-Shabaab Oo Weeraro Ka Geystay Muqdisho Iyo Garbahaarey [Al-Shabaab Carried Out Attacks In Mogadishu And Garbaharey], 29 May 2022, [url](#); Radio Al-Furqan, Weeraro Lagu Dhaawacay Saraakiil Katirsan DF Oo Ka Dhacay Banaadir Iyo Gedo [Officers of special police force injured in attacks on Banaadir and Gedo], 28 August 2022, [url](#)

⁴³⁶ Calamada, Dagaal Culus Oo Ciidamada Mujaahidiinta Iyo Xabashida Ku Dhexmaray Gedo [Heavy fighting between Mujahideen forces and Ethiopians in Gedo], 2 September 2022, [url](#)

⁴³⁷ Radio Al-Furqan, Qarax Dhimasho Iyo Dhaawac Ay Noqdeen Askarta DF Oo Ka Dhacay Gobolka Gedo [SNA soldiers killed and injured in Gedo region], 12 May 2022, [url](#)

⁴³⁸ Radio Al-Furqan, Howlgal Lagu Dilay Xabno La Shaqeynayay Sirdoonka Kenya Oo Ka Dhacay Gedo [Group cooperating with Kenyan intelligence killed in operation in Gedo], 31 July 2022, [url](#)

⁴³⁹ SMN, Somali Govt forces carry out anti-al-Shababa operation in Gedo, 11 July 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁴⁰ Xinhua, Somali forces seize control of al-Shabab bases in southern region, 11 July 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁴¹ SD, Government and Al-Shabaab forces clash in Gedo region, 10 July 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁴² Halbeeg, Somali forces can take over security responsibility of their country – AU, 27 September 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁴³ MEE, Somalia: Turkey’s Bayraktar TB2 drones join offensive against al-Shabab, 1 October 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁴⁴ VOA, Ethiopia Deploys New Troops into Neighboring Somalia, 8 August 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁴⁵ Caasimada, Wareysi: Jubbaland oo xog cusub ka bixisay ciidanka Itoobiya ee soo galay Gedo [Interview: Jubbaland has given new information about the Ethiopian army that entered Gedo], 7 August 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁴⁶ SG, Ethiopia deploys thousands of fresh troops in south Somalia, 7 August 2022, [url](#)

Kenyan⁴⁴⁷ and Ethiopian airstrikes,⁴⁴⁸ were reported for example⁴⁴⁹ in June,⁴⁵⁰ August⁴⁵¹ and October 2022⁴⁵², hitting Ceel Adde,⁴⁵³ areas of the village Khadijo Haji, the cities Buusaar⁴⁵⁴ and Kabas⁴⁵⁵ as well as the villages Likoooley and Garsaal, some of which were strongholds of Al-Shabaab.⁴⁵⁶ Reportedly, the airstrikes led to the killing of livestock as well as the destruction of homes⁴⁵⁷ and resulted in civilian casualties.⁴⁵⁸

For further information on the conflict dynamics under the presidency of former president Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo in Gedo up until 30 June 2021, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

(c) Recent security incidents and trends

Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), civilian casualties

In the reference period, ACLED reported 134 security incidents in Gedo region, including battles, explosions, or other forms of remote violence, and violent acts against civilians, causing 122 fatalities ([Figure 15](#)).⁴⁵⁹

⁴⁴⁷ SG, Kenyan air strike kills livestock, destroys homes in south Somalia: official, 22 October 2022, [url](#); SMN, KDF carried out airstrike in Gedo region, south of Somalia, 22 June 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁴⁸ VOA, Ethiopia Deploys New Troops into Neighboring Somalia, 8 August 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁴⁹ Please note that these examples do not claim to be exhaustive.

⁴⁵⁰ Keydmedia, Kenya resumes airstrikes in Somalia after new president elected, 15 June 2022, [url](#); SMN, KDF carried out airstrike in Gedo region, south of Somalia, 22 June 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁵¹ VOA, Ethiopia Deploys New Troops into Neighboring Somalia, 8 August 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁵² SG, Kenyan air strike kills livestock, destroys homes in south Somalia: official, 22 October 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁵³ SG, Kenyan air strike kills livestock, destroys homes in south Somalia: official, 22 October 2022, [url](#); Keydmedia, Kenya resumes airstrikes in Somalia after new president elected, 15 June 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁵⁴ SMN, KDF carried out airstrike in Gedo region, south of Somalia, 22 June 2022, [url](#); Keydmedia, Kenya resumes airstrikes in Somalia after new president elected, 15 June 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁵⁵ VOA, Ethiopia Deploys New Troops into Neighboring Somalia, 8 August 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁵⁶ Keydmedia, Kenya resumes airstrikes in Somalia after new president elected, 15 June 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁵⁷ SG, Kenyan air strike kills livestock, destroys homes in south Somalia: official, 22 October 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁵⁸ SMN, KDF carried out airstrike in Gedo region, south of Somalia, 22 June 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁵⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

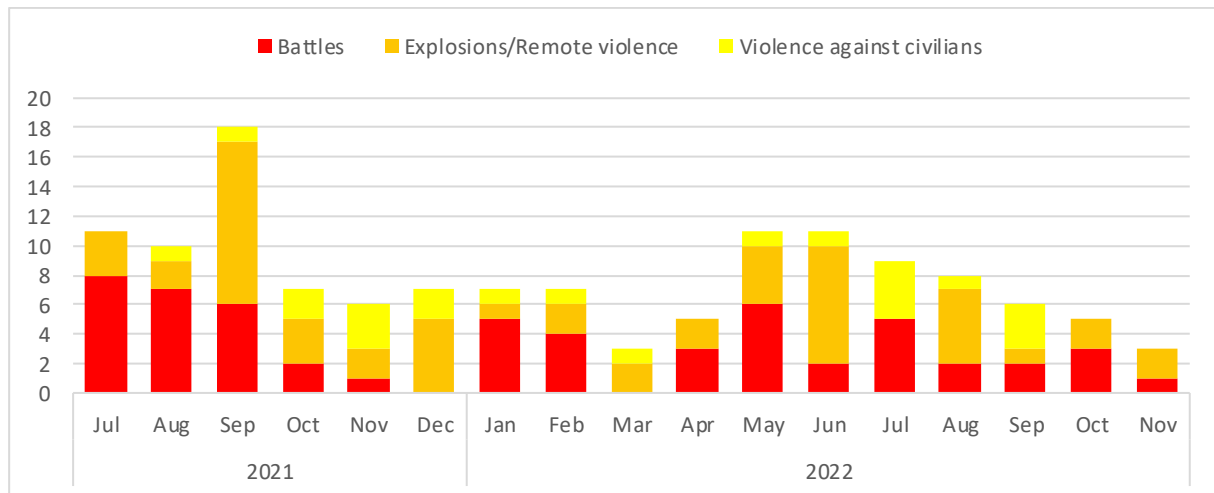


Figure 15. Gedo – Evolution of security incidents coded battles, explosion/remote violence and violence against civilians from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data. ⁴⁶⁰

At the district level, Bardhere recorded the most security incidents (33 incidents), followed by Ceel Waaq district (30 incidents) between July 2021 and November 2022 ([Figure 16](#)).⁴⁶¹

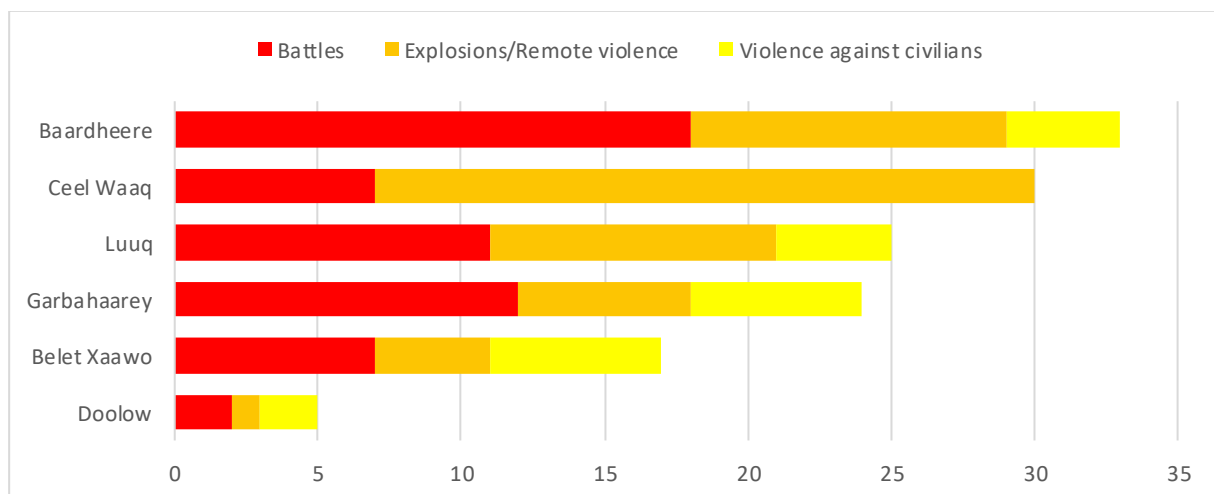


Figure 16. Gedo – Breakdown of security incidents per district from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data. ⁴⁶²

For the reference period, ACLED reported Al-Shabaab being involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)⁴⁶³ in 86 security incidents (42 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 31 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 13 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in 93 fatalities in Gedo administrative region. Somali security forces (military and police forces) were reportedly involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 65 security incidents (43 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 16 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 6 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in 45 fatalities. 4

⁴⁶⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁶¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁶² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁶³ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

incidents involved different Marehan clan- or subclan-militias (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’).⁴⁶⁴

While no overall dataset could be found on the number of conflict-related civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) in the region, [Table 2](#) shows the numbers of incidents and estimated fatalities (without distinction between civilian and non-civilian) in Gedo region that were recorded by ACLED between July 2021 and end of November 2022, by type of incident:

Gedo	Number of incidents	Number of estimated fatalities
Battles	57	48
Explosions/Remote violence	55	46
Violence against civilians	22	28
Total	134	122

Table 2. Gedo – number of security incidents and fatalities by type of incident for the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data.⁴⁶⁵

Of the 122 fatalities recorded in Gedo between July 2021 and end of November 2022, most (40 fatalities) were reported in Garbahaarey district, ahead of Luuq district (24 fatalities), Ceel Waaq (20 fatalities), Doolow (15 fatalities), Bardhere district (12 fatalities) and Belet Xaawo district (11 fatalities). When focusing on incidents coded by ACLED as ‘violence against civilians’, most of the 22 incidents that caused in total 28 fatalities were reported in Belet Xaawo (6 incidents and 4 fatalities) and Garbahaarey district (6 incidents and 19 fatalities), followed by Bardhere district (4 incidents and 3 fatalities) and Luuq district (4 incidents and 2 fatalities).⁴⁶⁶

Illustrative security incidents with (high) impact on civilians⁴⁶⁷

On 30 September 2022, Al-Shabaab attacked construction workers, who were drilling a well for locals in Gariley village, killing at least 12 civilians.⁴⁶⁸

In June 2022, a series of Kenyan airstrikes reportedly hit the village Khadijo Haji and the town Buusaar near the Kenya-Somalia border area. According to a resident, the attack resulted in an unknown number of civilian casualties.⁴⁶⁹

⁴⁶⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁶⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁶⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁶⁷ The following is a selection of incidents and does not claim to be representative in any sense. Moreover, please note that security incidents related to clan conflicts do not always receive local media attention and hence might go under-reported in Somalia. Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#)

⁴⁶⁸ Halbeeg, Al-Shabaab kills 12 civilians, destroys well drilling rig in southern Somalia, 2 October 2022, [url](#); Crisis 24, Somalia: Al-Shabaab militants killed at least 12 people in attack in Gariley, Gedo Region, Sept. 30, 30 September 2022, [url](#); N-TV, Islamistische Terrormiliz tötet zwölf Zivilisten [Islamist terrorist militia kills 12 civilians], 1 October 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁶⁹ SMN, KDF carried out airstrike in Gedo region, south of Somalia, 22 June 2022, [url](#)

On 11 July 2021, two clan militias reportedly clashed near Doolow district over a land dispute. According to official sources, at least six people died, and 10 others were injured.⁴⁷⁰

Conflict-related displacement

As of 14 November 2021, UNOCHA reported that Gedo was among the regions with the highest conflict-induced displacement numbers.⁴⁷¹ Between July 2021 and November 2022, 24 727 persons were newly displaced by conflict or insecurity from Gedo region according to the UNHCR PRMN.⁴⁷² 99 % (or 24 545 individuals) of this group were displaced within the administrative region, while 182 individuals were displaced to Lower Juba. In the same period, conflict and insecurity resulted in additional 10 016 individuals arriving from Bakool, Bay and Middle Juba in Gedo. During the reference period, Doolow district was the most affected by this type of displacement, with 18 063 arriving and 18 473 leaving (including movements within the district).⁴⁷³

Other impacts on civilian life

Al-Shabaab and other armed non-state actors also ‘continued to hinder commercial activities in the areas they controlled’, including in Gedo, and disrupted the delivery of humanitarian aid.⁴⁷⁴ Between 16 December 2020 and 6 September 2021, Al-Shabaab reportedly blocked the movement of goods in Luuq district and repeatedly ambushed trucks or motorcycles coming from the Ethiopian border carrying goods.⁴⁷⁵ A November 2022 article by Anadalou Agency reported with reference to an official source that Al-Shabaab was ‘restricting humanitarian activities’ in Gedo region.⁴⁷⁶ UNOCHA documented one humanitarian access incident⁴⁷⁷ in Gedo region in Bardhere district between July and September 2021.⁴⁷⁸ Between January and March 2022, one incident was documented in the region, specifically in Doolow district⁴⁷⁹. No such data was available for the period between October and December 2021 and between April and November 2022.

⁴⁷⁰ Keydmedia, At least six dead in heavy inter-clan fighting in Somalia, 12 July 2021, [url](#)

⁴⁷¹ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Bulletin (October 2021), 14 November 2021, [url](#), p. 3

⁴⁷² For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

⁴⁷³ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁷⁴ USDOS, 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Somalia, 12 April 2022, [url](#), p. 25

⁴⁷⁵ UN Security Council, Letter dated 5 October 2021 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751(1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2021/849, 6 October 2021, [url](#), para. 13

⁴⁷⁶ AA, Al-Shabaab blockades exacerbating humanitarian crisis in Somalia, 18 November 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁷⁷ Such incidents include the following types: ‘ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance’, ‘ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance’ and ‘armed hostilities preventing access’. UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), p. 1

⁴⁷⁸ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), pp. 1-2

⁴⁷⁹ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 1 (January - March 2022), 17 July 2022, [url](#), p. 1

Data accessed through the NRC Eviction Information Portal⁴⁸⁰ recorded no individuals being forcibly evicted⁴⁸¹ in the Gedo region for the period July 2021 to November 2022.⁴⁸² IDP site verification exercises by the Global CCCM in October 2022 found that of the 35 verified IDP sites in Bardhere, 7 sites were classified as having high risk of eviction.⁴⁸³ Additional IDP site verification exercises were conducted in May 2022, indicating that of the 6 verified IDP sites in Ceel Waaq, none were classified as having extreme risk of eviction,⁴⁸⁴ and March 2022, indicating that of the 34 verified IDP sites in Luuq, 3 % were classified as having extreme risk of eviction and 3 % as having high risk of eviction.⁴⁸⁵ IDP site verification exercises conducted in September 2021 in Belet Xaawo indicated that of the 5 verified IDP sites, 20 % were classified as having high risk of eviction.⁴⁸⁶ The DSA conducted by the REACH and the CCCM Cluster in November and December 2021 indicated that the 'proportion of assessed sites where [key informants] reported perceiving a very high risk of forced eviction' was 50 % in Ceel Waaq⁴⁸⁷, 67 % in Garbahaarey⁴⁸⁸ and 100 % in Bardhere district.⁴⁸⁹ As for Luuq⁴⁹⁰, Doolow⁴⁹¹ and Belet Xaawo district,⁴⁹² no consensus regarding the perceived risk of forced eviction among key informants in IDP sites could be reached.

2.1.2. Middle Juba

(a) Background

Middle Juba region is located in the southern part of Somalia and shares internal borders with the following regions: Gedo to the north and north-west, Bay to the north-east, Lower Shabelle to the east and Lower Jubba to the south. It has three districts: Bu'aale (also Bualle), Jilib and Saakow.⁴⁹³ The region's capital is Bu'aale.⁴⁹⁴ Though Bu'aale is, on paper, supposed to be the capital of Jubbaland, Kismayo in Lower Juba has been the de facto seat of the Jubbaland

⁴⁸⁰ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

⁴⁸¹ NRC defines 'forced evictions' as the 'removal against their will of people from their homes and/or land which they occupy, without any form of legal or other protection'. NRC, *An Unnecessary Burden: Forced Evictions and Covid-19*, 1 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1

⁴⁸² NRC, Eviction Information Portal, Data Sets, Somalia – July 2021–November 2022, as of 9 December 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁸³ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Bardheere Verified IDP Sites – October 2022, 1 November 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁸⁴ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Ceel Waaq Verified IDP Sites – May 2022, 29 May 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁸⁵ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Luuq Verified IDP Sites – March 2022, 28 March 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁸⁶ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Belet Xaawo Verified IDP Sites – September 2021, 29 September 2021, [url](#)

⁴⁸⁷ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Ceel Waaq district, Gedo region - March 2022, 6 April 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁴⁸⁸ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Garbahaarey district, Gedo region - March 2022, 6 April 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁴⁸⁹ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Baardheere district, Gedo region - March 2022, 6 April 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁴⁹⁰ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Luuq district, Gedo region – March 2022, 6 April 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁴⁹¹ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Doolow district, Gedo region - March 2022, 6 April 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁴⁹² REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Belet Xaawo district, Gedo region - March 2022, 6 April 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁴⁹³ MSF, Somalia – General Reference Map, 11 October 2022, [url](#); UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#)

⁴⁹⁴ MSF, Somalia – General Reference Map, 11 October 2022, [url](#); UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#); Star (The), Kenya should launch offensive against al Shabaab in Middle Jubba, 12 November 2022, [url](#)

government⁴⁹⁵ and will likely remain so.⁴⁹⁶ Jilib is the largest town and most important commercial and strategic urban area.⁴⁹⁷

The region's clan composition is very diverse. The Somali Bantu are the most populous ethnic group in the region. The two politically and militarily strongest clans in Middle Jubba are the Aulihan (Darood) and the Mohamed Zubier/Ogaden (Darood) clans, both residing on the west bank.⁴⁹⁸ For more detailed and historical information on the clan composition in Middle Jubba, including information on sub-clans, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

A December 2022 IPC document listed the population of Middle Jubba as 366 851 in 2022.⁴⁹⁹ UNOCHA estimated the population of Middle Jubba in 2021 at 363 930 (including 58 821 men, 57 311 women, 234 290 children, and 13 507 elderly people).⁵⁰⁰ The 2014 Population Estimation Survey conducted by UNFPA and the Somali authorities⁵⁰¹ estimated the population⁵⁰² of Middle Jubba at 362 921, of whom 56 242 lived in urban areas, 148 439 in rural areas, and 131 240 were nomads.⁵⁰³ For figures on IDPs, see subsection below on conflict-related displacement.

(b) Actors' presence and conflict dynamics

Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence (along with other actors)

According to [Map 4. Somalia - Approximate Territorial Control](#), as of 30 November 2022, Al-Shabaab reportedly controlled almost all of Middle Jubba with the control over small areas at the border to Lower Jubba reported to be mixed or unclear.⁵⁰⁴ Another map by Political Geography Now as of 30 June 2021 shows identical territories of mixed/unclear control and control by Al-Shabaab in Middle Jubba region as the more recent map as of November 2022 mentioned above.⁵⁰⁵ According to several media articles published in 2022, Al-Shabaab controlled all of Middle Jubba region,⁵⁰⁶ which was at the same time the only region in the

⁴⁹⁵ GI-TOC, Terror and Taxes. Inside al-Shabaab's revenue-collection machine, 8 December 2022, [url](#), p. 2

⁴⁹⁶ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 59

⁴⁹⁷ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 52

⁴⁹⁸ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 53

⁴⁹⁹ IPC, Nearly 8.3 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes [Table], 13 December 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁵⁰⁰ UNOCHA, Somalia – 2021 Population Figures and Disaggregation, 7 December 2021, [url](#)

⁵⁰¹ According to the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) of 2020, the 2014 Population Estimation Survey of Somalia 'is the most recent nationwide population estimation exercise undertaken in Somalia.' Somalia, NBS, The Somali Health and Demographic Survey 2020, 30 April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

⁵⁰² As of 2022, the 2014 estimates remain the figures used in the latest official publications of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). See e.g., Somalia, Somalia Data Portal, Population – Dashboards, 1 March 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁰³ UNFPA, Population Estimation Survey 2014, Somalia, October 2014, [url](#), p. 31

⁵⁰⁴ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

⁵⁰⁵ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 June 2021, n.a., non-public source

⁵⁰⁶ SMN, Howlgallo ka dhan ah Al Shabaab oo ka bilaabanaya Jubbooyinka iyo Gedo [Operations against Al-Shabaab starting in Jubba and Gedo], 12 December 2022, [url](#); SMN, Jubaland president receives a Federal Government delegation, 27 November 2022, [url](#); Star (The), Kenya should launch offensive against al Shabaab in Middle Jubba, 12 November 2022, [url](#); SMN, Ahmed Madobe returns to Kismayo after Dhobley visit, 4 July 2022, [url](#)

group's general control.⁵⁰⁷ Reportedly, large parts of the group's governance apparatus and hierarchy were maintained in Middle Juba region⁵⁰⁸ and Jilib city was the groups 'official' headquarters.⁵⁰⁹ As documented by the UN Panel of Experts for the reference period 16 December 2020 to 6 September 2021, Al-Shabaab directly controlled the cities Jilib, Bu'aale and Saakow in Middle Juba.⁵¹⁰

Clan dynamics in the region are apparently particularly affected by Al-Shabaab presence, which plays, in this context, the role of 'stability provider' in terms of justice provider and prevention of clashes between clans.⁵¹¹

For more detailed information regarding various actors and their presence in Middle Juba up until 30 June 2021, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

Conflict dynamics

Middle Juba region is reportedly very underdeveloped and, with the exception of the ribbon of deteriorated highway passing through Jilib from Mogadishu to Kismayo,⁵¹² lacks infrastructure.⁵¹³

In October 2022, a senior Al-Shabaab official named Abdullahi Nadir was killed in a US drone attack in the region.⁵¹⁴

Several sources, including Al-Shabaab sources,⁵¹⁵ reported that Al-Shabaab carried out public executions in Middle Juba in the reference period.⁵¹⁶ The executed individuals were

⁵⁰⁷ KNN, xaalad bini-adanimo oo xiligaan ka jirto Gobolka Jubbada dhexe., 5 June 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁰⁸ LWJ, Shabaab continues to lose ground in central Somalia, 27 September 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁰⁹ Garowe Online, Somalia: Al-Shabaab Executed 5 Accused of Spying, 5 September 2022, [url](#)

⁵¹⁰ UN Security Council, Letter dated 5 October 2021 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751(1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2021/849, 6 October 2021, [url](#), para. 11

⁵¹¹ Interview with Somali security expert I, 20 and 27 June 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 54. Expert I is a leading Somali security and intelligence expert based in Somalia, with extensive national and international consulting experience.

⁵¹² Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 54

⁵¹³ Interview with Somali security expert I, 20 and 27 June 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 54

⁵¹⁴ SD, U.S. Drone attack kills Al Shabaab cofounder, 4 October 2022, [url](#); VOA, At Least 20 Killed in Central Somalia Blasts, 3 October 2022, [url](#)

⁵¹⁵ SomaliMemo, Al Shabaab oo 5 Ruux ku dilay deegaan katirsan Jubbada dhexe. [Al-Shabaab killed 5 people in central Jubba], 4 September 2022, [url](#); Radio Al-Furqan, Dhageyso 6 Basaasiin Ah Oo Lagu Dilay Fagaare Ku Yaalla Jilib. [6 Spies killed in public in Jilib], 9 August 2022, [url](#)

⁵¹⁶ Garowe Online, Al-Shabaab executes 6 over alleged spying for US intelligence in Somalia, 15 October 2022, [url](#); Garowe Online, Somalia: Al-Shabaab Executed 5 Accused of Spying, 5 September 2022, [url](#); SMN, Al-Shabaab oo maanta meel fagaare ah ku toogatay lix ruux + magacyada [Al-Shabaab shot six people in public today + names], 18 August 2022, [url](#); SG, Al-Shabaab Executes Four Men, Including Soldiers in South Somalia, 7 October 2021, [url](#)

reportedly accused of spying⁵¹⁷ for the US,⁵¹⁸ Kenya and NISA.⁵¹⁹ The executions were carried out in the cities Saakow⁵²⁰ and Jilib.⁵²¹

(c) Recent security incidents and trends

Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), civilian casualties

In the reference period, ACLED reported 9 security incidents in Middle Juba region, including battles, explosions, or other forms of remote violence, and violent acts against civilians, causing 19 fatalities ([Figure 17](#)).⁵²²

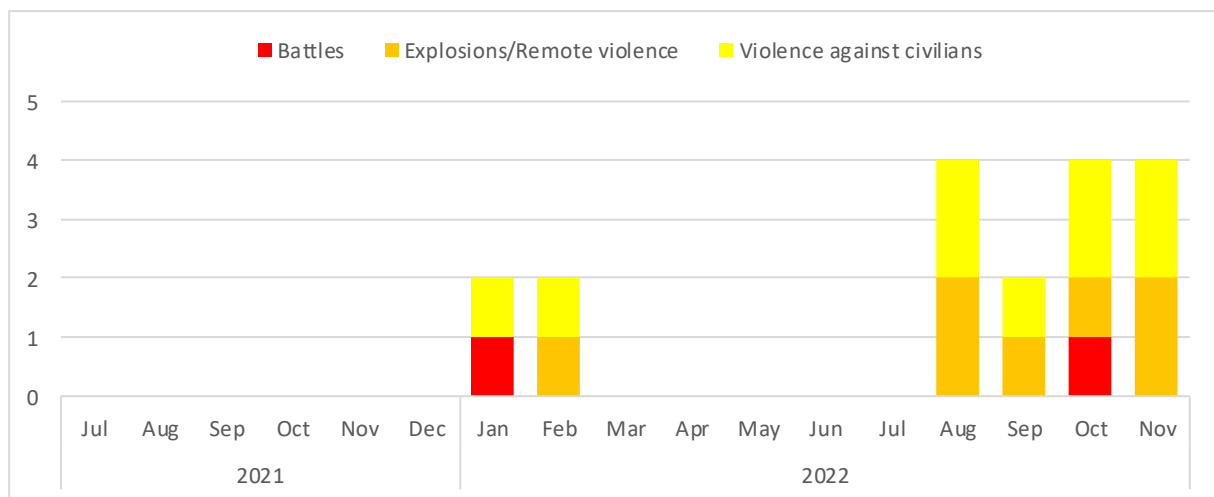


Figure 17. Middle Juba – Evolution of security incidents coded battles, explosion/remote violence and violence against civilians from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data. ⁵²³

At the district level, Jilib recorded the most security incidents (7 incidents), followed by Saakow district (2 incidents) between July 2021 and November 2022 ([Figure 18](#)).⁵²⁴

⁵¹⁷ SomaliMemo, Al Shabaab oo 5 Ruux ku dilay deegaan katirsan Jubbada dhexe. [Al-Shabaab killed 5 people in Middle Jubba], 4 September 2022, [url](#)

⁵¹⁸ Garowe Online, Al-Shabaab executes 6 over alleged spying for US intelligence in Somalia, 15 October 2022, [url](#); Garowe Online, Somalia: Al-Shabaab Executed 5 Accused of Spying, 5 September 2022, [url](#)

⁵¹⁹ Radio Al-Furqan, Dhageyso 6 Basaasiin Ah Oo Lagu Dilay Fagaare Ku Yaalla Jilib. [6 Spies killed in public in Jilib], 9 August 2022, [url](#)

⁵²⁰ Garowe Online, Al-Shabaab executes 6 over alleged spying for US intelligence in Somalia, 15 October 2022, [url](#)

⁵²¹ Garowe Online, Somalia: Al-Shabaab Executed 5 Accused of Spying, 5 September 2022, [url](#); SomaliMemo, Al Shabaab oo 5 Ruux ku dilay deegaan katirsan Jubbada dhexe. [Al-Shabaab killed 5 people in Middle Jubba], 4 September 2022, [url](#); Radio Al-Furqan, Dhageyso 6 Basaasiin Ah Oo Lagu Dilay Fagaare Ku Yaalla Jilib. [6 Spies killed in public in Jilib], 9 August 2022, [url](#)

⁵²² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁵²³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁵²⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

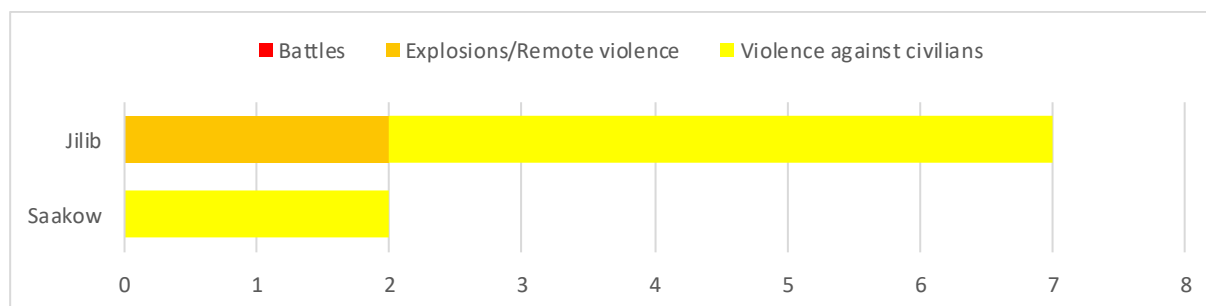


Figure 18. Middle Juba – Breakdown of security incidents per district from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.⁵²⁵

For the reference period, ACLED reported that Al-Shabaab being involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)⁵²⁶ in all 9 security incidents in Middle Juba administrative region (7 incidents coded as ‘violence against civilians’ and 2 as ‘explosions/remote violence’) resulting in 19 fatalities. US military forces were reportedly involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 2 of the security incidents (both coded as ‘explosions/remote violence’) resulting in one fatality.⁵²⁷

While no overall dataset could be found on the number of conflict-related civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) in the region, [Table 3](#) shows the numbers of incidents and estimated fatalities (without distinction between civilian and non-civilian) in Middle Juba region that were recorded by ACLED between July 2021 and end of November 2022, by type of incident:

Middle Juba	Number of incidents	Number of estimated fatalities
Explosions/Remote violence	2	1
Violence against civilians	7	18
Total	9	19

Table 3. Middle Juba – number of security incidents and fatalities by type of incident for the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data.⁵²⁸

Of the 19 fatalities recorded in Middle Juba between July 2021 and end of November 2022, most (12 fatalities) were reported in Jilib district, ahead of Saakow district (7 fatalities). When focusing on incidents coded by ACLED as ‘violence against civilians’, most of the 7 incidents that caused in total 18 fatalities were reported in Jilib (5 incidents and 11 fatalities). The remaining two incidents were reported in Saakow district (7 fatalities).⁵²⁹

⁵²⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁵²⁶ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

⁵²⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁵²⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁵²⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

Illustrative security incidents with (high) impact on civilians⁵³⁰

On 10 August 2022, it was reported that Al-Shabaab militants publicly shot six individuals in Jilib district, who were accused of cooperating with Somali, Kenyan and US intelligence agencies.⁵³¹

Conflict-related displacement

Between July 2021 and November 2022, 1 775 persons were newly displaced by conflict or insecurity from Middle Juba region according to the UNHCR PRMN.⁵³² 22 individuals of this group were displaced within the administrative region, while 91 % (1 608 individuals) were displaced to Lower Juba. In the same period, conflict and insecurity resulted in additional 642 individuals arriving from Bay in Middle Juba. During the reference period, Saakow district was the most affected by arrivals due to this type of displacement, with 652 arriving (including movements within the district), and Bu'aale district was the most affected by departures due to this type of displacement, with 793 leaving (including movements within the district).⁵³³

Other impacts on civilian life

No humanitarian access incident⁵³⁴ was documented by UNOCHA between July and September 2021 and January and March 2022 in Middle Juba region.⁵³⁵ No such data was available for the period between October and December 2021 and between April and November 2022.

Data accessed through the NRC Eviction Information Portal⁵³⁶ recorded no individuals being forcibly evicted⁵³⁷ in the Middle Juba region for the period July 2021 to November 2022.⁵³⁸ As of 17 October 2022, CCCM Somalia listed no verified IDP sites in Middle Juba region.⁵³⁹

⁵³⁰ The following is a selection of incidents and does not claim to be representative in any sense. Moreover, please note that security incidents related to clan conflicts do not always receive local media attention and hence might go under-reported in Somalia. Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#)

⁵³¹ SMN, Al-Shabaab oo maanta meel fagaare ah ku toogatay lixruux + magacyada [Al-Shabaab shot six people in public today + names], 18 August 2022, [url](#)

⁵³² For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

⁵³³ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

⁵³⁴ Such incidents include the following types: 'ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance', 'ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance' and 'armed hostilities preventing access'. UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), p. 1

⁵³⁵ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), pp. 1-2; UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 1 (January - March 2022), 17 July 2022, [url](#), p. 1

⁵³⁶ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

⁵³⁷ NRC defines 'forced evictions' as the 'removal against their will of people from their homes and/or land which they occupy, without any form of legal or other protection'. NRC, An Unnecessary Burden: Forced Evictions and Covid-19, 1 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1

⁵³⁸ NRC, Eviction Information Portal, Data Sets, Somalia – July 2021-November 2022, as of 9 December 2022, [url](#)

⁵³⁹ CCCM Cluster Somalia, List of IDP sites in Somalia, 17 October 2022, [url](#)



2.1.3. Lower Juba

(a) Background

Lower Juba region is the southern-most region of Somalia. It shares an international border with Kenya to the west, and internal borders with Gedo region to the north and with Middle Juba region to the north-east. The region has four districts: Kismayo, Jamaame, Afmadow and Badhaadhe. Though Bu'aale is, on paper, supposed to be the capital of Jubbaland, Kismayo has been the de facto seat of the Jubbaland government⁵⁴⁰ and will likely remain so.⁵⁴¹

According to Menkhaus, Lower Juba is inhabited by members of the Somali Bantu (also known as Jareer), the Biyomaal (Dir) clan, the Tunni (Digil-Mirifle), the Mohamed Zubier/Ogaden (Darood) clan, other Darood clans, the Gaaljaal, the Harti (Darood), the Somali Bajuni and small pockets of other clans. Kismayo town has a complex population makeup, which is subject to major changes. Since 2012, Kismayo has been dominated politically, economically, and militarily by the Ogaden clan, especially the large Mohamed Zubier sub-clan.⁵⁴² For more detailed and historical information on the clan composition in Lower Juba, including information on sub-clans, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

A December 2022 IPC document listed the population of Lower Juba as 1 038 602 in 2022.⁵⁴³ UNOCHA estimated the population of Lower Juba in 2021 at 979 998 (including 161 229 men, 152 429 women, 633 041 children, and 33 299 elderly people).⁵⁴⁴ The 2014 Population Estimation Survey conducted by UNFPA and the Somali authorities⁵⁴⁵ estimated the population⁵⁴⁶ of Lower Juba at 489 307, of whom 172 861 lived in urban areas, 161 512 in rural areas, and 124 334 were nomads.⁵⁴⁷ For figures on IDPs, see subsection below on conflict-related displacement.

(b) Actors' presence and conflict dynamics

Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence (along with other actors)

The most important actors in the Lower Jubba are the Jubbaland state government, Al-Shabaab, and clan leaders and militias.⁵⁴⁸ According to [Map 4. Somalia - Approximate](#)

⁵⁴⁰ GI-TOC, Terror and Taxes. Inside al-Shabaab's revenue-collection machine, 8 December 2022, [url](#), p. 2

⁵⁴¹ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 59

⁵⁴² Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 59

⁵⁴³ IPC, Nearly 8.3 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes [Table], 13 December 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁵⁴⁴ UNOCHA, Somalia – 2021 Population Figures and Disaggregation, 7 December 2021, [url](#)

⁵⁴⁵ According to the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) of 2020, the 2014 Population Estimation Survey of Somalia 'is the most recent nationwide population estimation exercise undertaken in Somalia.' Somalia, NBS, The Somali Health and Demographic Survey 2020, 30 April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

⁵⁴⁶ As of 2022, the 2014 estimates remain the figures used in the latest official publications of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). See e.g., Somalia, Somalia Data Portal, Population – Dashboards, 1 March 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁴⁷ UNFPA, Population Estimation Survey 2014, Somalia, October 2014, [url](#), p. 31

⁵⁴⁸ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 60



Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, Al-Shabaab reportedly controlled the city of Badhaadhe in the southern part of Lower Juba and extended areas north of Badhaadhe as well as the areas north and east to the city of Hagar in the northern part of Lower Juba up to the areas bordering Middle Juba. Control over the areas further south bordering Kenya and those encircling the areas around Badhaadhe controlled by Al-Shabaab in the north-western and in the eastern part of Lower Juba was reported to be mixed or unclear.⁵⁴⁹ Another map by Political Geography Now as of 30 June 2021 shows identical territories of mixed/unclear control and control by Al-Shabaab in Lower Juba region as the more recent map as of November 2022 mentioned above.⁵⁵⁰ As documented by the UN Panel of Experts on Somalia during the period from 16 December 2020 to 6 September 2021, most towns in Jamaame district in Lower Juba were under Al-Shabaab's direct control.⁵⁵¹

In the reference period media sources mentioned Al-Shabaab bases in the areas of Miido and Xarboole in Afmadow district⁵⁵² and in the Halima Adeey area near Bu'a Haji in southwestern Kismayo⁵⁵³ and strongholds in the suburbs of Jamaame district.⁵⁵⁴ Furthermore, Al-Shabaab forces were reportedly concentrated in Waraha Buur Qaylo⁵⁵⁵ and in the Aliyow Barrow area and close villages.⁵⁵⁶ Reportedly, the presence of Al-Shabaab fighters was also sometimes witnessed in the areas of the towns and villages Bar Sangouni, Maleley, Bandarjadid, Araare, Koban and Bangeni.⁵⁵⁷ As of September 2021, Al-Shabaab either controlled or influenced most of the hinterland in Lower Jubba, including most of the Lower Jubba valley.⁵⁵⁸

Menkhaus stated that in mid-2021 that Jubbaland state had strong control over Kismayo town and its immediate vicinity, including the international airport.⁵⁵⁹ Several towns in Lower Jubba, such as Afmadow and Doble, were reportedly also under Jubbaland state control.⁵⁶⁰

⁵⁴⁹ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

⁵⁵⁰ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 June 2021, n.a., non-public source

⁵⁵¹ UN Security Council, Letter dated 5 October 2021 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751(1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2021/849, 6 October 2021, [url](#), para. 11

⁵⁵² SD, Jubaland: Darwish and Al Shabaab forces clash in Miido, 15 September 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁵³ Goobjoog, Jubaland forces launch assault on Al-Shabaab base in Lower Juba, 10 May 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁵⁴ Goobjoog, SNA kills 10 Al-Shabaab members, captures 6 others, 9 March 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁵⁵ Radio Risaala, Ciidanka DANAB & kuwa Madaxtooyada Jubbaland oo howlgal wadajir ah sameeyay [The DANAB army and the Jubbaland Presidency conducted a joint operation], 8 February 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁵⁶ Radio Risaala, Ciidanka Kumaandooska DANAB oo howlgal qorsheysan fuliyay [The DANAB commando force carried out a planned operation], 23 December 2021, [url](#)

⁵⁵⁷ Radio Risaala, Ciidamada dowladda & kuwa Jubbaland oo howlgal Wadajir ah fuliyay [The government and Jubbaland forces carried out a joint operation], 21 September 2021, [url](#)

⁵⁵⁸ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 61

⁵⁵⁹ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 60

⁵⁶⁰ Interview with Somali security expert I, 20 and 27 June 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 60

In the reference period, Kenyan forces were reportedly based in Hoosingow,⁵⁶¹ Taabta⁵⁶² and Kulbiyow areas⁵⁶³ as well as the Abdalla Birole area of Kismayo city.⁵⁶⁴

When it comes to clan dynamics, while most clans in the Lower Jubba maintained an ability to muster a clan militia, the Mohamed Zubeir clan (and to a lesser extent the other Ogaden clans), according to Menkhaus, was the principal clan that populated all Jubbaland state security actors, including police, military, dervish and JISA forces (see the report on [Somalia: Actors \(July 2021\)](#))^{565, 566}. For more details about the presence of various armed forces in Jubbaland as of July 2021, see the EASO COI report on [Somalia: Actors \(July 2021\)](#).⁵⁶⁷

Conflict dynamics

In the reference period, conflict dynamics in Lower Juba region included the ongoing confrontation between Al-Shabaab and anti-Al-Shabaab forces.⁵⁶⁸ Battles between Al-Shabaab and Kenyan AMISOM/ATMIS forces⁵⁶⁹ and/or Jubbaland security forces⁵⁷⁰ were, for example,⁵⁷¹ reported in Dhoobley district⁵⁷², Hosingow village,⁵⁷³ Taabta village,⁵⁷⁴ Kudhaa island⁵⁷⁵ and the Abdalla Birole area of Kismayo city.⁵⁷⁶ In several of these cases, the fighting

⁵⁶¹ Goobjoog, Fighting erupts after Al-Shabaab attacks Kenyan military base in Lower Juba, 28 June 2022, [url](#); SG, Kenyan military base in south Somalia comes under overnight attack, 10 March 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁶² Keydmedia, Kenyan military base in Somalia comes under Al-Shabaab attack, 4 August 2022, [url](#); Keydmedia, Al-Shabaab attacks Kenyan army base in Somalia, 29 August 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁶³ Calamada, Akhriso Weeraro Kala Duwan Oo Saraakiil Iyo Askar Dhimasho Iyo Dhaawac Ay Ku Noqdeen. [Officers and soldiers killed and injured in a series of attacks], 21 May 2022, [url](#); Please note that the online media source Calamada is affiliated with Al-Shabaab. Security Council Report, November 2022 Monthly Forecast – Africa – Somalia, 31 October 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁶⁴ Radio Risaala, Dagaal ka dhacay Jubbada Hoose & faah faahin laga helayo [Battle in Lower Jubba and details], 21 October 2021, [url](#)

⁵⁶⁵ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), p. 79

⁵⁶⁶ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 61

⁵⁶⁷ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), pp. 79-80

⁵⁶⁸ Strategic Intelligence News, Monthly Counter-Terrorism Intelligence Brief for East Africa (Kenya & Somalia) Shabaab Al-Mujahideen in Period of April 1st – April 30th, 2022: Tracking and Monitoring Al-Shabaab's Activity in East Africa, 3 May 2022, [url](#); Strategic Intelligence News, Monthly Counter-Terrorism Intelligence Brief for East Africa (Kenya & Somalia) Shabaab Al-Mujahideen in Period of January 1st – January 31st, 2022: Tracking and Monitoring Al-Shabaab's Activity in East Africa, 3 February 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁶⁹ Goobjoog, Fighting erupts after Al-Shabaab attacks Kenyan military base in Lower Juba, 28 June 2022, [url](#); Radio Risaala, Dagaal ka dhacay Jubbada Hoose & faah faahin laga helayo [Battle in Lower Jubba and details], 21 October 2021, [url](#); Keydmedia, Kenyan military base in Somalia comes under Al-Shabaab attack, 4 August 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁷⁰ SMN, Dagaal khasaare geystay oo ka dhacay degmada Dhoobley [A battle occurred in Dhoobley district], 21 November 2021, [url](#)

⁵⁷¹ Please note that these examples do not claim to be exhaustive.

⁵⁷² SMN, Dagaal khasaare geystay oo ka dhacay degmada Dhoobley [A battle occurred in Dhoobley district], 21 November 2021, [url](#)

⁵⁷³ Goobjoog, Fighting erupts after Al-Shabaab attacks Kenyan military base in Lower Juba, 28 June 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁷⁴ Keydmedia, Kenyan military base in Somalia comes under Al-Shabaab attack, 4 August 2022, [url](#); Keydmedia, Al-Shabaab attacks Kenyan army base in Somalia, 29 August 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁷⁵ SMN, Jubaland troops engage in heavy battle with Al-Shabaab, 28 November 2021, [url](#)

⁵⁷⁶ Radio Risaala, Dagaal ka dhacay Jubbada Hoose & faah faahin laga helayo [Battle in Lower Jubba and details], 21 October 2021, [url](#)

broke out after attacks by Al-Shabaab on AMISOM/ATMIS or Jubbaland forces.⁵⁷⁷ Some of the clashes reportedly resulted in civilian casualties.⁵⁷⁸

Conflict dynamics furthermore included anti-Al-Shabaab operations carried out by Jubbaland, Kenyan,⁵⁷⁹ SNA⁵⁸⁰ and DANAB forces⁵⁸¹ in Abdalla Birole,⁵⁸² the area in and around Kamjaroon village,⁵⁸³ in the Halima Adeey area near Bu'a Haji in southwestern Kismayo,⁵⁸⁴ in Jamaame district,⁵⁸⁵ in Waraha Buur Qaylo⁵⁸⁶ as well as in the areas of Bar Sangouni, Maleley, Bandarjadid, Araare, Koban, Bangeni⁵⁸⁷ and Aliyow Barrow.⁵⁸⁸ In July 2022, reportedly Al-Shabaab 'key bases' and a prison in Kamjaroon, located 50 km north of Kismayo, and surrounding areas,⁵⁸⁹ were destroyed in a joint operation by DANAB and Jubbaland forces.⁵⁹⁰

Airstrikes and drone strikes⁵⁹¹ by Kenya and the US⁵⁹² were reported in the reference period in Lower Juba region,⁵⁹³ for example, close to Libikus,⁵⁹⁴ in Dhobley district,⁵⁹⁵ and near the town of Beer Xaani.⁵⁹⁶

In October 2021, the executions of four men on two different occasions by Al-Shabaab forces based on accusations of sorcery, belonging to the Jubbaland forces and child molestation were reported in Lower Juba.⁵⁹⁷

⁵⁷⁷ Keydmedia, Kenyan military base in Somalia comes under Al-Shabaab attack, 4 August 2022, [url](#); Keydmedia, Al-Shabaab attacks Kenyan army base in Somalia, 29 August 2022, [url](#); SG, Kenyan military base in south Somalia comes under overnight attack, 10 March 2022, [url](#); SMN, Jubaland troops engage in heavy battle with Al-Shabaab, 28 November 2021, [url](#).

⁵⁷⁸ Keydmedia, Kenyan military base in Somalia comes under Al-Shabaab attack, 4 August 2022, [url](#); Goobjoog, Fighting erupts after Al-Shabaab attacks Kenyan military base in Lower Juba, 28 June 2022, [url](#); Radio Risaala, Dagaal ka dhacay Jubba Hoose & faah faahin laga helayo [Battle in Lower Jubba and details], 21 October 2021, [url](#).

⁵⁷⁹ SMN, Dagaal culus oo maanta ka dhacay duleedka magaalada Kismaayo. [Heavy fighting took place today in the outskirts of Kismayo], 14 September 2021, [url](#).

⁵⁸⁰ Somaliland.com, Somalia army killed three Ashabab fighters in Lower Jubba, 27 August 2022, [url](#).

⁵⁸¹ Keydmedia, Somali troops set free inmates from Al-Shabaab jails, 28 July 2022, [url](#).

⁵⁸² SMN, Dagaal culus oo maanta ka dhacay duleedka magaalada Kismaayo. [Heavy fighting took place today in the outskirts of Kismayo], 14 September 2021, [url](#).

⁵⁸³ Keydmedia, Somali troops set free inmates from Al-Shabaab jails, 28 July 2022, [url](#).

⁵⁸⁴ Goobjoog, Jubaland forces launch assault on Al-Shabaab base in Lower Juba, 10 May 2022, [url](#).

⁵⁸⁵ Goobjoog, SNA kills 10 Al-Shabaab members, captures 6 others, 9 March 2022, [url](#).

⁵⁸⁶ Radio Risaala, Ciidanka DANAB & kuwa Madaxtooyada Jubbaland oo howlgal wadajir ah sameeyay [The DANAB army and the Jubbaland Presidency conducted a joint operation], 8 February 2022, [url](#).

⁵⁸⁷ Radio Risaala, Ciidamada dowladda & kuwa Jubbaland oo howlgal wadajir ah fuliyay [The government and Jubbaland forces carried out a joint operation], 21 September 2021, [url](#).

⁵⁸⁸ Radio Risaala, Ciidanka Kumaandooska DANAB oo howlgal qorsheysan fuliyay [The DANAB commando force carried out a planned operation], 23 December 2021, [url](#).

⁵⁸⁹ Horseed Media, Somali forces destroy Al Shabab base in Lower-Jubba, 29 July 2022, [url](#).

⁵⁹⁰ Keydmedia, Somali troops set free inmates from Al-Shabaab jails, 28 July 2022, [url](#); Horseed Media, Somali forces destroy Al Shabab base in Lower-Jubba, 29 July 2022, [url](#).

⁵⁹¹ SG, US military carries out first drone strike in Somalia since redeployment of troops, 4 June 2022, [url](#).

⁵⁹² SG, US military carries out first drone strike in Somalia since redeployment of troops, 4 June 2022, [url](#).

⁵⁹³ SMN, KDF jets against bomb residential areas in Gedo, 29 September 2021, [url](#).

⁵⁹⁴ Arab News, US says it kills 2 Al-Shabab militants in Somalia airstrike, 21 July 2022, [url](#); Halbeeg, US conducts airstrikes against Al-Shabaab in southern Somalia, 19 July 2022, [url](#).

⁵⁹⁵ SD, Kenya Airstrike hits Jubaland Pastorals, 14 March 2022, [url](#).

⁵⁹⁶ SG, US military carries out first drone strike in Somalia since redeployment of troops, 4 June 2022, [url](#).

⁵⁹⁷ SG, Al-Shabaab Executes Four Men, Including Soldiers in South Somalia, 7 October 2021, [url](#); Radio Al-Furqan, Dhageyso Nin Saaxir Ah Iyo Askari Ka Tirsan DF Oo Lagu Dilay Fagaare Ku Yaalla Jamaame. [A sorcerer and a

(c) Recent security incidents and trends

Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), civilian casualties

In the reference period, ACLED reported 517 security incidents in Lower Juba region, including battles, explosions, or other forms of remote violence, and violent acts against civilians, causing 548 fatalities ([Figure 19](#)).⁵⁹⁸

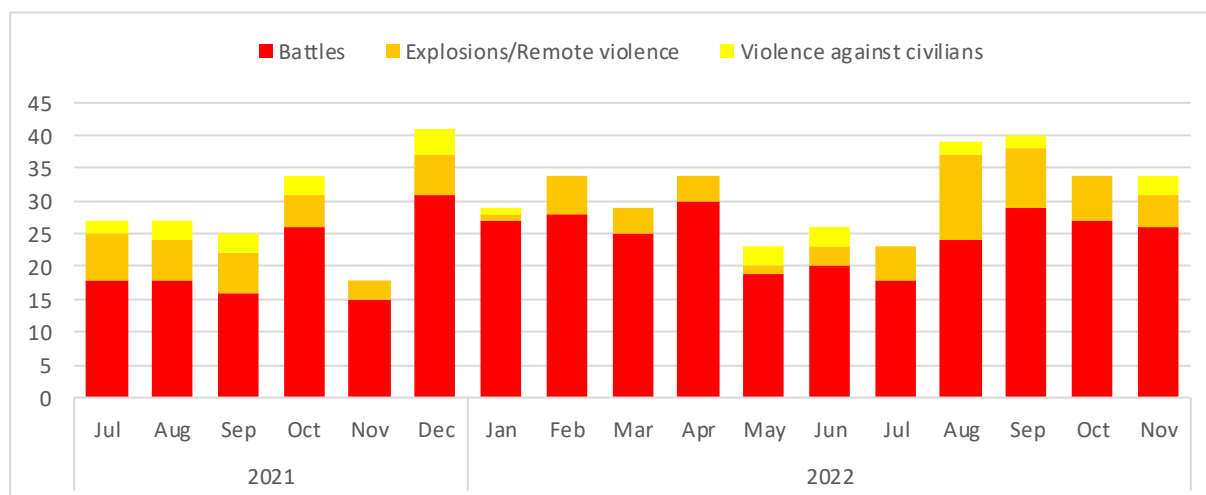
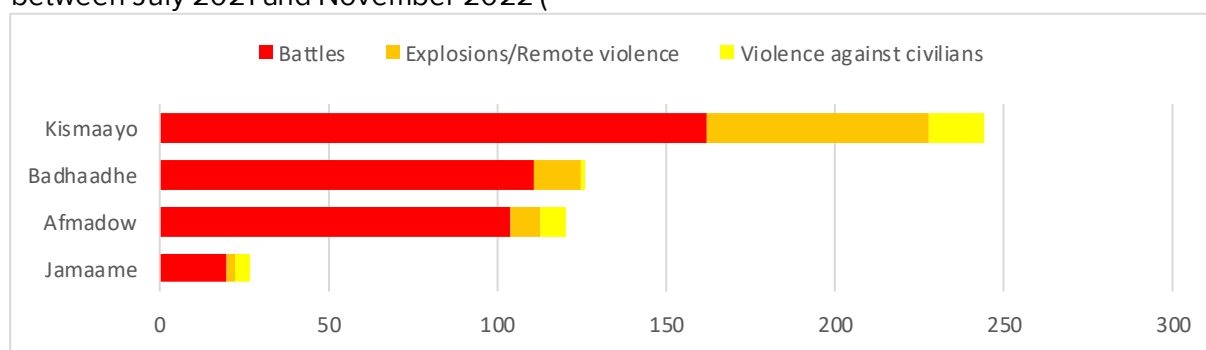


Figure 19. Lower Juba – Evolution of security incidents coded battles, explosion/remote violence and violence against civilians from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.⁵⁹⁹

At the district level, Kismaayo recorded the most security incidents (244 incidents), followed by Badhaadhe (126 incidents) and Afmadow (120 incidents) and Jamaame districts (27 incidents) between July 2021 and November 2022 (



soldier from the DF killed in a public square in Jamaame], 5 October 2021, [url](#); Goobjoog, Al-Shabaab executes two people in Lower Jubba, 7 October 2021, [url](#)

⁵⁹⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁹⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

Figure 20).⁶⁰⁰

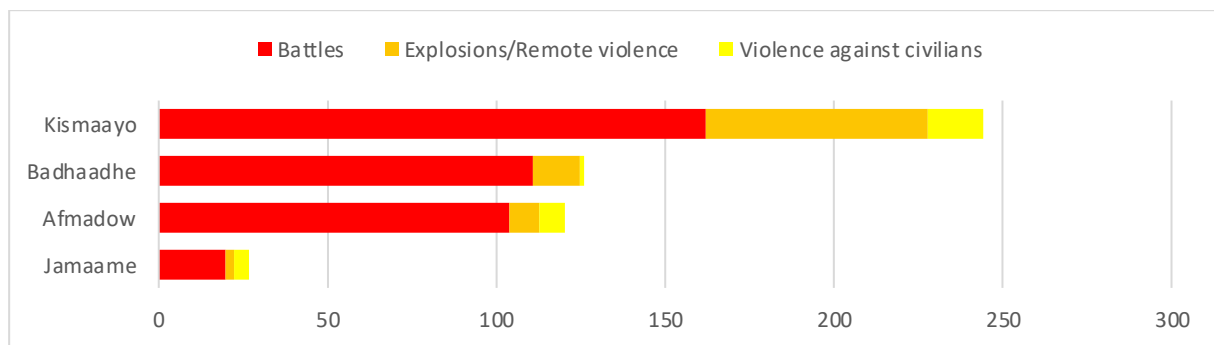


Figure 20. Lower Juba – Breakdown of security incidents per district from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.⁶⁰¹

For the reference period, ACLED reported Al-Shabaab being involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)⁶⁰² in 488 security incidents (391 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 80 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 17 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in 516 fatalities in Lower Juba administrative region. Somali security forces (military and police forces) were reportedly involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 237 security incidents (201 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 31 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 5 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in 255 fatalities. 7 incidents involved different clan-militia (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’).⁶⁰³

While no overall dataset could be found on the number of conflict-related civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) in the region, [Table 4](#) shows the numbers of incidents and estimated fatalities (without distinction between civilian and non-civilian) in Lower Juba region that were recorded by ACLED between July 2021 and end of November 2022, by type of incident:

Lower Juba	Number of incidents	Number of estimated fatalities
Battles	397	370
Explosions/Remote violence	91	148
Violence against civilians	29	30
Total	517	548

Table 4. Lower Juba– number of security incidents and fatalities by type of incident for the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data.⁶⁰⁴

Of the 548 fatalities recorded in Lower Juba between July 2021 and end of November 2022, most (303 fatalities) were reported in Kismayo district, ahead of Badhaadhe district (131 fatalities), Jamaame (67 fatalities) and Afmadow (47 fatalities). When focusing on incidents

⁶⁰⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁰¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁰² For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

⁶⁰³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁰⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

coded by ACLED as ‘violence against civilians’, most of the 29 incidents that caused in total 30 fatalities were reported in Kismayo (16 incidents and 12 fatalities) and Afmadow district (7 incidents and 8 fatalities), followed by Jamaame district (5 incidents and 8 fatalities) and Badhaadhe district (1 incident and 2 fatalities).⁶⁰⁵

Illustrative security incidents with (high) impact on civilians⁶⁰⁶

In August 2021, Radio Kulmiye (KNN) reported that the FGS attacked vehicles carrying Al-Shabaab members and explosives via airstrikes and bombings, among others in Jamaame city in Lower Juba region. Reportedly, a number of civilians was killed in the attacks.⁶⁰⁷

According to a June 2022 Goobjoog article, two civilians were shot dead in Dhobley town, supposedly as a result of clan-based conflict. According to the source, clashes had flared up in the districts Dhobley and Afmadow in the days preceding the reporting and the security situation had deteriorated after the arrest of local elders by Jubbaland security forces based on the accusation of ‘fue[lling] disunity and fighting among clans in the area’.⁶⁰⁸

On 28 June 2022, Kenyan ATMIS forces clashed with Al-Shabaab fighters in the village Hosingow, where Al-Shabaab had attacked an ATMIS base. Reportedly, the clash resulted in civilian casualties.⁶⁰⁹

On 23 October 2022, Al-Shabaab carried out an attack on the Tawakal hotel in the centre of Kismayo city.⁶¹⁰ According to Jubbaland officials, nine civilians, including students from a nearby school, were killed and 47 others injured.⁶¹¹

Conflict-related displacement

Between July 2021 and November 2022, 14 531 persons were newly displaced by conflict or insecurity from Lower Juba region according to the UNHCR PRMN.⁶¹² 99.9 % (or 14 518 individuals) of this group were displaced within the administrative region, while 13 individuals were displaced to Banadir region. In the same period, conflict and insecurity resulted in additional 2 052 individuals arriving from Bay, Galgaduud, Middle Juba and Gedo in Lower Juba. During the reference period, Kismayo district was the most affected by this type of displacement in terms of arrivals, with 11 936 arriving (including movements within the district),

⁶⁰⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁰⁶ The following is a selection of incidents and does not claim to be representative in any sense. Moreover, please note that security incidents related to clan conflicts do not always receive local media attention and hence might go under-reported in Somalia. Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#)

⁶⁰⁷ KNN, Maxaa ka jira in dad shacab ah ay ku dhinteen duqeyn ka dhacay Jubbada dhexe iyo shabeellada hoose?. [Why are civilians killed in a bombing in Middle Jubba and Lower Shabelle?], 9 August 2021, [url](#)

⁶⁰⁸ Goobjoog, Two family members killed by armed militia on the outskirts of Dhobley district, 2 June 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁰⁹ Goobjoog, Fighting erupts after Al-Shabaab attacks Kenyan military base in Lower Juba, 28 June 2022, [url](#)

⁶¹⁰ LWJ, Shabaab assaults hotel in southern city of Kismayo, 24 October 2022, [url](#); Reuters, Somalia car bomb, shooting hits Kismayu hotel, nine dead, 23 October 2022, [url](#)

⁶¹¹ Al Jazeera, Attack on hotel in Somalia’s Kismayo ends with 9 civilians dead, 23 October 2022, [url](#); Reuters, Somalia car bomb, shooting hits Kismayu hotel, nine dead, 23 October 2022, [url](#); LWJ, Shabaab assaults hotel in southern city of Kismayo, 24 October 2022, [url](#)

⁶¹² For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

while Jamaame district was the most affected by this type of displacement in terms of departures with 8 591 leaving (including movements within the district).⁶¹³

Other impacts on civilian life

No humanitarian access incident⁶¹⁴ was documented by UNOCHA in Lower Juba region between July and September 2021 and January and March 2022.⁶¹⁵ No such data was available for the period between October and December 2021 and between April and November 2022.

Data accessed through the NRC Eviction Information Portal⁶¹⁶ recorded 9 252 individuals being forcibly evicted⁶¹⁷ in the Lower Juba region for the period July 2021 to November 2022.⁶¹⁸ IDP site verification exercises by the Global CCCM in May 2022 found that of the 11 verified IDP sites in Afmadow, 18 % of the sites were classified as having extreme and 37 % of the sites as having high risk of eviction.⁶¹⁹ Of the 164 verified IDP sites in Kismayo, 24 % of the sites were classified as having extreme and 23 % of the sites as having high risk of eviction.⁶²⁰ Of the 9 verified IDP sites in Dhobley, 22 % of the sites were classified as having extreme and 22 % of the sites as having high risk of eviction.⁶²¹ The DSA conducted by the REACH and the CCCM Cluster in November and December 2021 indicated that the 'proportion of assessed sites where [key informants] reported perceiving a very high risk of forced eviction' was 6 % in Kismayo⁶²² and 0 % in Afmadow district.⁶²³

2.1.4. Jubbaland – Checkpoints and road security

There are several border-crossing points in Jubbaland. The Sector 2 Headquarters for AMISOM/ATMIS (under the leadership of Kenya) is also located at Dhobley, contributing to Dhobley being a large and significant crossing point. Other key ones, in terms of mobility and of materials/merchandise coming into Somalia, are Belet Hawo and Doolow (Dollow). Doolow is at the border with Ethiopia, while Belet Hawo at the border with Kenya. The other main

⁶¹³ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

⁶¹⁴ Such incidents include the following types: 'ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance', 'ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance' and 'armed hostilities preventing access'. UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), p. 1

⁶¹⁵ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), p. 1; UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 1 (January - March 2022), 17 July 2022, [url](#), p. 1

⁶¹⁶ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

⁶¹⁷ NRC defines 'forced evictions' as the 'removal against their will of people from their homes and/or land which they occupy, without any form of legal or other protection'. NRC, An Unnecessary Burden: Forced Evictions and Covid-19, 1 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1

⁶¹⁸ NRC, Eviction Information Portal, Data Sets, Somalia – July 2021-November 2022, as of 9 December 2022, [url](#)

⁶¹⁹ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Afmadow Verified IDP Sites – May 2022, 29 May 2022, [url](#)

⁶²⁰ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Kismaayo Verified IDP Sites – May 2022, 29 May 2022, [url](#)

⁶²¹ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Dhobley Verified IDP Sites – May 2022, 29 May 2022, [url](#)

⁶²² REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Kismaayo district, Lower Juba region – March 2022, 6 April 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁶²³ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Afmadow district, Lower Juba region – March 2022, 6 April 2022, [url](#), p. 4



border crossings are by air – commercial flights from Kenya fly in and out of Kismayo airport – and by sea, via the all-weather port in Kismayo.

Based on information provided by an international expert interviewed for this report, the following main corridors in Lower Jubba were identified:

- **Kismayo – Jilib – Bardhere.** It is controlled by Al-Shabaab 20 kilometres north of Kismayo until close to Bardhere which is under government control.
- **Dhobley – Afmadow – Kismayo.** This is a track road, impassable at times during the rainy season, but, as noted above, is the most important land-based transport corridor in the region. The influence of ATMIS is limited to the Dhobley – Afmadow Road. Along the route from Afmadow to Kismayo, there is an Al-Shabaab checkpoint at Jana Cabdalle. This checkpoint has been dismantled more than once but keeps reappearing.
- **Kismayo – Badhaadhe.** Another track road, impassable during the rainy season, is the coastal road linking Kismayo to Badhaadhe. Kismayo can be accessed starting from Abdalla Birole, which is located approximately 20 km west of Kismayo on the coastal route. After this point everything is under Al-Shabaab control.
- **Garbahaarrey – Luuq – Waajid.** Another key route out of Jubbaland is from Garbahaarrey towards Luuq then across to Waajid in Bakool region and then down to Baidoa in Bay region.⁶²⁴

Al-Shabaab monitored and taxed the flow of goods and people on the roads linking Kismayo to Kenya.⁶²⁵ Based on al-Shabaab tax-receipts collected between December 2020 and October 2021 from drivers of commercial vehicles,⁶²⁶ the GI-TOC identified 16 checkpoints in Jubbaland, of which 11 were Al-Shabaab controlled checkpoints (for more details see section Al-Shabaab's 'Taxation' in the EASO COI report on [Somalia: Actors \(July 2021\)](#)).⁶²⁷ The Al-Shabaab controlled checkpoints were located in the Gedo town Canoole, the Middle Juba towns Saakow, Bu'aale and Jilib and in the Lower Juba towns Welmarow, Kobon, Bar Sanguni, Berhani, Janai Abdullah (also Birta Dheer), Labikuus and Kamsuuma (bridge). Apart from these, five major Jubbaland checkpoints were identified in the Lower Juba towns Dhobley, Taabta (Tabta), Bilis Qooqaani, Afmadow and Kismayo.⁶²⁸

As documented by the UN Panel of Experts for the reference period 16 December 2020 to 6 September 2021, checkpoint security was dependent on how much control Al-Shabaab had over the area surrounding the checkpoint. The source gives the example of the checkpoint in Middle Juba's city Bu'aale. Because Bu'aale was directly controlled by Al-Shabaab, this checkpoint was surveyed by receipt writers, while at checkpoints bordering areas which were

⁶²⁴ International Expert, email, 11 December 2022. The international Expert works for an international organisation based in Somalia and has expertise in the field of security as well as several years of relevant field experience in the country.

⁶²⁵ Interview with Somali security expert I, interview, 26 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 61

⁶²⁶ A total of 821 receipts were collected between December 2020 and October 2021 from 19 commercial vehicle drivers. About half of the receipts, overall issued between July 2015 and October 2021, were issued in 2021; GI-TOC, Terror and Taxes. Inside al-Shabaab's revenue-collection machine, 8 December 2022, [url](#), p. 2

⁶²⁷ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), pp. 63-64

⁶²⁸ GI-TOC, Terror and Taxes. Inside al-Shabaab's revenue-collection machine, 8 December 2022, [url](#), p. 6





controlled by the government or were disputed much ‘greater security and manpower’ would be employed.⁶²⁹

2.2. South West

2.2.1. Bakool

(a) Background

The Bakool region shares internal borders with Gedo, Bay, Hiiraan, and Lower Shabelle regions and an international border with Ethiopia. The region consists of five districts: Xudur, Tayeeglow, Ceel Barde, Rab Dhuure and Waajid. The region’s capital is Xudur.⁶³⁰ Bakool is mainly inhabited by various Rahanweyn groups (Jiron, Lisan (Laysaan), Garwale, Gelidle, Hadama, Luwai, Jelible, Reer Dumal, Ashraf), while the Jajele (Hawiye) are present in a small section in the north⁶³¹ and the Aulihan (Ogaden/Darood) clan resides along both sides of the border with Ethiopia (although predominantly on the Ethiopian side).⁶³²

A December 2022 IPC document listed the population of Bakool as 492 487 in 2022.⁶³³ UNOCHA estimated the population of Bakool in 2021 at 459 747 (including 68 114 men, 75 033 women, 294 355 children, and 22 245 elderly people).⁶³⁴ The 2014 Population Estimation Survey conducted by UNFPA and Somali authorities⁶³⁵ estimated that the population⁶³⁶ of the Bakool region was 367 226, of whom 61 928 lived in urban areas, 134 050 in rural areas, and 147 248 were nomads.⁶³⁷ For figures on IDPs, see subsection below on conflict-related displacement.

⁶²⁹ UN Security Council, Letter dated 5 October 2021 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2021/849, 6 October 2021, [url](#), para. 57

⁶³⁰ MSF, Somalia – General Reference Map, 11 October 2022, [url](#); UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#)

⁶³¹ EASO, COI report - South and Central Somalia Country overview [clan maps based on Lewis 1955, Abikar 1999], August 2014, [url](#), pp. 52-53

⁶³² Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 67

⁶³³ IPC, Nearly 8.3 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes [Table], 13 December 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁶³⁴ UNOCHA, Somalia – 2021 Population Figures and Disaggregation, 7 December 2021, [url](#)

⁶³⁵ According to the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) of 2020, the 2014 Population Estimation Survey of Somalia ‘is the most recent nationwide population estimation exercise undertaken in Somalia.’ Somalia, NBS, The Somali Health and Demographic Survey 2020, 30 April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

⁶³⁶ As of 2022, the 2014 estimates remain the figures used in the latest official publications of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). See e.g., Somalia, Somalia Data Portal, Population – Dashboards, 1 March 2022, [url](#)

⁶³⁷ UNFPA, Population Estimation Survey 2014, Somalia, October 2014, [url](#), p. 31





(b) Actors' presence and conflict dynamics

Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence (along with other actors)

Bakool region has been characterised by the presence of a variety of armed actors.⁶³⁸ While Al-Shabaab mainly controlled the rural areas,⁶³⁹ state and federal state forces were maintaining control of several key towns,⁶⁴⁰ including Xudur, Ceel Barde, Yeed, and Waajid. The towns of Rab Dhuure, Tayeeglow and Garasweyne, on the other hand, were under Al-Shabaab control as of November 2022.⁶⁴¹ Major government-held towns like Xudur and Waajid were subject to blockade by Al-Shabaab,⁶⁴² which controlled nearly all of the main supply routes in the South West State,⁶⁴³ making it difficult for the government to connect the towns it controlled.⁶⁴⁴

According to [Map 4. Somalia - Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022](#) most of the territory of the Bakool region consisted either of areas contested between Al-Shabaab and AMISOM/the federal state forces or areas where control was unclear. Al-Shabaab controlled the area around Tiyeeglow in the east, a portion in the region's very southeast, and areas south of Xudur town.⁶⁴⁵ The previously contested⁶⁴⁶ town of Radbhure was reportedly incorporated into Al Shabaab's realm of control during the reference period.⁶⁴⁷

Meanwhile, the borderlands in the northwest and – to some extent – in the north of the region remained under the full control of federal state forces and AMISOM⁶⁴⁸ (now reconfigured as ATMIS).⁶⁴⁹ Due to a heavy Ethiopian security presence along the border, attacks by Al-Shabaab have been rare in these areas.⁶⁵⁰ However, in late July 2022, the border towns of Yeed⁶⁵¹ and Ato,⁶⁵² as well as the village of Washaaqo (which all have a large presence of Ethiopian Liyu forces) came under attack by Al-Shabaab,⁶⁵³ with the militants reportedly briefly seizing control of these localities.⁶⁵⁴

⁶³⁸ UN Security Council, Letter dated 5 October 2021 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751(1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2021/849, 6 October 2021, [url](#), para. 130

⁶³⁹ Edle, A., Bay and Bakool: How Somalia's Breadbasket turned into an epicenter of humanitarian crisis [Blog], RVI, 24 March 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁴⁰ Interview with Somali security expert I, 20 and 27 June 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 68

⁶⁴¹ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

⁶⁴² International Crisis Group, Considering Political Engagement with Al-Shabaab in Somalia, 21 June 2022, [url](#), p. 6, footnote 21

⁶⁴³ HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), p. 23

⁶⁴⁴ International Crisis Group, Considering Political Engagement with Al-Shabaab in Somalia, 21 June 2022, [url](#), p. 6

⁶⁴⁵ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

⁶⁴⁶ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 June 2021, n.a., non-public source

⁶⁴⁷ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

⁶⁴⁸ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 June 2021, n.a., non-public source; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

⁶⁴⁹ AU, Peace and Security Council, Communique for 1068th Meeting, Communiqué Rev. 1, PSC/PR/COMM.1068 (2022), 8 March 2022, [url](#), p. 3

⁶⁵⁰ Reuters, Somalia's al Shabaab group makes rare attack near Ethiopia border, 22 July 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁵¹ UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#)

⁶⁵² UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#)

⁶⁵³ VOA, Al-Shabab Attacks Somali Towns Close to Ethiopian Border, 20 July 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁵⁴ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 24



Regarding clan composition, the Bakool and Bay regions of the South West State have been primarily inhabited by the Rahanweyn clans Mirifle and Digil, with the Mirifle more prevalent in Bakool.⁶⁵⁵ The Mirifle are divided into two large groups, the Sagaal and Sideed,⁶⁵⁶ and include several empowered clans as well as numerous weaker groups.⁶⁵⁷ In May 2022, inter-clan clashes were reported between pastoral communities over the use of farmland.⁶⁵⁸

Ma'awisley (or *Macawiisley*), a mainly⁶⁵⁹ clan-based, state-supported independent⁶⁶⁰ locally mobilized militia,⁶⁶¹ were also operating in Bakool region where they were composed of Rahanweyn clan members. As elsewhere in Somalia, their defensive operations were limited to their clan zone and did not extend beyond the region's borders.⁶⁶² Another anti-insurgent self-defence group, the Ali Qaran militia, emerged in Bakool in recent years.⁶⁶³

Conflict dynamics

During the reference period, conflict dynamics in Bakool included ongoing confrontations between Al-Shabaab and anti-Al-Shabaab forces, including SNA troops,⁶⁶⁴ South West State regional security forces,⁶⁶⁵ ATMIS (AMISOM) forces⁶⁶⁶ (including IED attacks by Al-Shabaab targeting international troop convoys),⁶⁶⁷ Ethiopian military forces,⁶⁶⁸ and Ethiopian Liyu police

⁶⁵⁵ Interview with Somali security expert I, 20 and 27 June 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), pp. 67-68

⁶⁵⁶ Nordic International Support Foundation, Somalia Context Analysis: Baidoa, 2016, n.d., p. 17, non public source, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 74

⁶⁵⁷ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 68

⁶⁵⁸ Protection Cluster, Somalia Protection Monitoring System: Summary of Findings, May 2022, 31 May 2022, [url](#), p. 9

⁶⁵⁹ Shire, M.I., email, 14 April 2022. As cited in ACCORD, Anfragebeantwortung zu Somalia: Informationen zur Miliz Macawiisley [Query response on Somalia: Information on Macawiisley militia], 22 April 2022 [url](#). Dr Mohammed Ibrahim Shire is a lecturer at the University of Portsmouth researching terrorism and political violence.

⁶⁶⁰ VOA, Somalia Military Makes Gains in Large-scale Offensive Against Al-Shabab, 26 September 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁶¹ Keydmedia, A Govt-allied militia attacks Al-Shabaab base in Somalia, 4 September 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁶² Shire, M.I., Protection or predation? Understanding the behavior of community-created self-defense militias during civil wars, 9 July 2021, [url](#), p. 18

⁶⁶³ Shire, M.I., Protection or predation? Understanding the behavior of community-created self-defense militias during civil wars, 9 July 2021, [url](#), p. 21

⁶⁶⁴ Calamada, Weeraro Ka Kala Dhacay Banaadir Sh/hoose Iyo Bay iyo Bakool. [Attacks in Banadir, Lower Shabelle, Bay and Bakool], 26 July 2021, [url](#); Radio Al-Furqaan, Al-Shabaab Oo Weeraro Ka Fulisay Bay, Bakool, Jubbada Hoose Iyo Sh/Hoose. [Al-Shabaab carried out attacks in Bay, Bakool, Lower Jubba and Lower Shabelle], 18 December 2021, [url](#)

⁶⁶⁵ SONNA, Somali National Army kills five Al-Shabaab militants, 14 November 2021, [url](#); Radio Risaala, Dagaal ka dhacay Gobolka Bakool & faah faahin laga helayo [Battle in Bakool Region, details to be found], 30 March 2022, [url](#); SomaliMemo, Iska hor'imaad khasaara dhaliyay oo ka dhacay magaalada Xudur [Deadly clash took place in the city of Hudur], 4 September 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁶⁶ SomaliMemo, Sarkaal lagu dilay Muqdisho iyo weeraro ka dhacay wilaayaatka qaar. [An officer was killed in Mogadishu, attacks in several provinces], 19 September 2021, [url](#); Radio Risaala, Dagaal xoogan oo ka dhacay Gobolka Bakool [A fierce battle took place in the Bakool region], 16 January 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁶⁷ SomaliMemo, Ciidamo Itoobiyaan ah oo lagu qarxiyay duleedka Xudur iyo taliyaha Janaale oo qarax ku dhaawacmay. [Ethiopian soldiers blown up in the outskirts of Hudur; Janaale commander injured in blast], 10 May 2022, [url](#); SomaliMemo, Shan (5) Askari oo Itoobiyaan ah oo Lagu Dilay Qarax ka Dhacay Bakool [Five Ethiopian soldiers killed in Bakool blast], 18 May 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁶⁸ SomaliMemo, Ciidamo Itoobiyaan ah oo qaraxyo lagula beegsaday duleedka Ceelbarde. [Ethiopian troops targeted by explosions on the outskirts of Ceel Barde], 16 May 2022, [url](#); SG, Top Al-Shabaab official says 30 Ethiopian troops killed in Somalia's Bakool region, 23 May 2022, [url](#)

forces stationed in border areas.⁶⁶⁹ While operations by FGS forces reportedly became ‘more surgical and tactical’ in nature, they still lacked the capability to hold on to captured territory.⁶⁷⁰ Thus, while Somali forces were able to retake several villages in the region⁶⁷¹ (including during an SNA operation in Xudur district in November 2021),⁶⁷² Al-Shabaab maintained its control over major supply routes.⁶⁷³

In July 2022, Al-Shabaab launched a large-scale attack on the towns of Yeed and Ato along the Somali-Ethiopian border and in the village of Waashaqo,⁶⁷⁴ killing an unconfirmed number of the Ethiopian Liyu police.⁶⁷⁵ This was followed by a cross-border offensive into Ethiopia.⁶⁷⁶ Further clashes between Al-Shabaab and Liyu police in the borderlands were reported in late August (in the Yeed area),⁶⁷⁷ mid-September (around Ato)⁶⁷⁸ and early October 2022 in the Waashaqo area⁶⁷⁹ and Rab Dhuure district⁶⁸⁰.

Local media also reported that Al-Shabaab carried out multiple attacks against military targets in the towns of Waajid⁶⁸¹ and Xudur.⁶⁸² The SNA in turn conducted anti-Al-Shabaab operations in the Xudur area in November 2021⁶⁸³ and – amongst others in cooperation with local community forces⁶⁸⁴ – in September 2022.⁶⁸⁵ Moreover, in mid-October 2022 the FGS announced plans to launch a large-scale campaign against Al-Shabaab in both Bakool and

⁶⁶⁹ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 24; SD, Liyuu Police and Al Shabaab fighters clash in Bakool, 4 October 2022, [url](#); SMN, Al-Shabaab claims 50 Liyu police officers killed in border clashes, 6 October 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁷⁰ HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), p. 24

⁶⁷¹ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 13-19 November 2021, 25 November 2021, [url](#); ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 24-30 September 2022, 6 October 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁷² Hiiraan Online, Ciidamada Xoogga dalka oo la wareegay deegaano dhowr ah oo ku yaala gobolka Bakool [Armed forces take over several areas in the Bakool region], 17 November 2021, [url](#)

⁶⁷³ International Crisis Group, Considering Political Engagement with Al-Shabaab in Somalia, 21 June 2022, [url](#), p. 6, footnote 21; HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), p. 24

⁶⁷⁴ VOA, Al-Shabab Attacks Somali Towns Close to Ethiopian Border, 20 July 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁷⁵ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 24

⁶⁷⁶ Critical Threats Project at the American Enterprise Institute, Africa File: Clan Uprising Bolsters anti-al Shabaab Offensive in Central Somalia, 15 September 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁷⁷ Radio Risaala, Weerar madaafiic ah oo lagu qaaday Saldhig ay ku sugan yihiin Ciidamada liyuu Boolis [Artillery attack on a Liyu police station], 25 August 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁷⁸ Radio Al-Furqaan, In Ka Badan 20 Askari Oo Lagu Dilay Weeraro Kala Duwan Oo Ka Dhacay Koonfurta Soomaaliya [More than 20 soldiers killed in various attacks in southern Somalia], 13 September 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁷⁹ SD, Liyuu Police and Al Shabaab fighters clash in Bakool, 4 October 2022, [url](#); SMN, Al-Shabaab claims 50 Liyu police officers killed in border clashes, 6 October 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁸⁰ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 1-7 October 2022, 13 October 2022, [url](#); ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 8-14 October 2022, 20 October 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁸¹ SomaliMemo, Sarkaal Sirdoon oo Muqdisho lagu dilay iyo weeraro ka dhacay gobollada dalka. [Intelligence officer killed in Mogadishu; attacks in other regions], 26 August 2021, [url](#); SG, Blast kills several Ethiopian soldiers in south Somalia, 23 February 2022, [url](#); SomaliMemo, Saldhigyo ay ku sugnaayeen ciidamada Itoobiya iyo kuwa Uganda oo weeraro culus lagu qaaday. [Bases hosting Ethiopian and Ugandan troops heavily attacked], 17 March 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁸² Calamada, Weeraro Ka Kala Dhacay Banaadir Sh/hoose Iyo Bay iyo Bakool. [Attacks in Banadir, Lower Shabelle, Bay and Bakool], 26 July 2021, [url](#); SomaliMemo, Askari lagu dilay xaafadda Black Sea iyo warar kale. [Soldier killed in Black Sea neighbourhood and other news], 20 March 2022, [url](#); SomaliMemo, Iska hor'imaad khasaara dhaliyay oo ka dhacay magaalada Xudur [Deadly clash took place in the city of Hudur], 4 September 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁸³ Hiiraan Online, Ciidamada Xoogga dalka oo la wareegay deegaano dhowr ah oo ku yaala gobolka Bakool [Armed forces take over several areas in the Bakool region], 17 November 2021, [url](#)

⁶⁸⁴ SD, Army targets Al Shabaab hideouts in Central Somalia, 13 September 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁸⁵ SD, Army targets Al Shabaab hideouts in Central Somalia, 13 September 2022, [url](#); SONNA, SNA in cooperation with Bakool regional government conducts operations to chase Al-Shabab terrorists, 27 September 2022, [url](#)

Bay regions.⁶⁸⁶ For more information, see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

(c) Recent security incidents and trends

Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), civilian casualties

In the reference period, ACLED reported 159 security incidents in Bakool, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violent acts against civilians, causing 452 fatalities ([Figure 21](#)).⁶⁸⁷

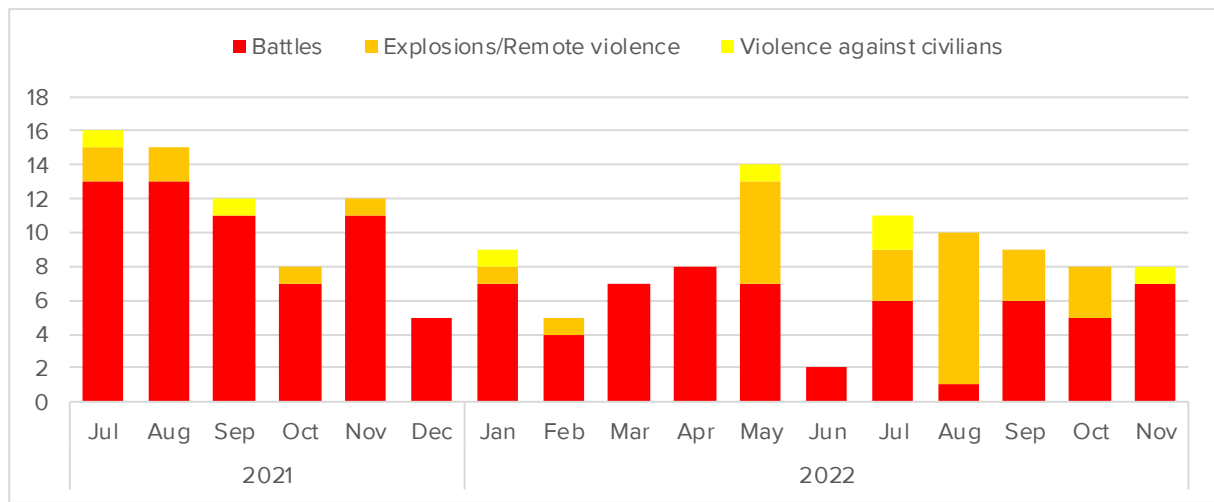


Figure 21. Bakool – Evolution of security incidents coded battles, explosion/remote violence, and violence against civilians from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data. ⁶⁸⁸

At the district level, Xudur recorded the highest number of security incidents (76 incidents) between July 2021 and November 2022, followed by Waajid district (47 incidents) ([Figure 22](#)).⁶⁸⁹

⁶⁸⁶ Somaliland.com, Somalia government reveals plans to launch military operations against Alshabab in Bay and Bakool regions, 18 October 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁸⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁸⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁸⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

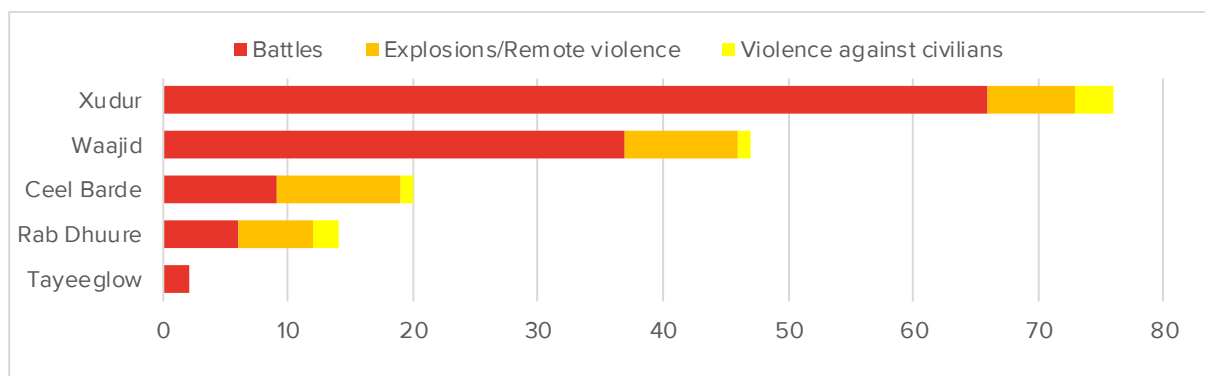


Figure 22. Bakool – Breakdown of security incidents per district from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.⁶⁹⁰

For reference period, ACLED reported Al-Shabaab being involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)⁶⁹¹ in 148 security incidents in the Bakool administrative region (117 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 28 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 3 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in a total of 442 fatalities. Somali security forces (military and police forces) were reportedly involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 67 security incidents (63 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 2 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 2 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in 58 fatalities, while Ethiopian security forces (military and police forces) were involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 81 security incidents (55 incidents coded as ‘battles,’ 24 as “explosions/remote violence” and 2 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in 386 fatalities.⁶⁹²

While no overall dataset could be found on the number of conflict-related civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) in the region, [Table 5](#) shows the numbers of incidents and estimated fatalities (without distinction as to civilian and non-civilian) in Bakool region that were recorded by ACLED between July 2021 and end of November 2022, by type of incident:

Bakool	Number of incidents	Number of estimated fatalities
Battles	120	394
Explosions/Remote violence	32	52
Violence against civilians	7	6
Total	159	452

Table 5. Bakool – number of security incidents and fatalities by type of incident for the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data.⁶⁹³

⁶⁹⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁹¹ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

⁶⁹² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁹³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

Of the 452 fatalities recorded in Bakool between July 2021 and end of November 2022, most (235 fatalities) were reported in Rab Dhuure district,⁶⁹⁴ followed by Ceel Barde district (134 fatalities)⁶⁹⁵, Xudur (43 fatalities), Waajid (22 fatalities), and Tayeeglow district (18 fatalities).⁶⁹⁶

Illustrative security incidents with (high) impact on civilians⁶⁹⁷

On 20 July 2022, Al-Shabaab attacked camps of Ethiopian Liyu police in the towns of Ato and Yeed along the Somali-Ethiopian border, with reports of heavy fighting. Later the group launched mortar attacks on Washaaqo, a village located further inside Somalia that also hosts a large garrison of Liyu police.⁶⁹⁸ The group claimed that it had taken control of Ato and Yeed⁶⁹⁹ but withdrew the same day.⁷⁰⁰ While it was reported that dozens of Liyu police members were killed in these attacks,⁷⁰¹ the exact number of casualties could not be verified.⁷⁰²

On 30 July 2022, following the killing of Liyu police in an Al-Shabaab attack on Ato, Ethiopian forces conducted air strikes targeting the Al-Shabaab-held⁷⁰³ town of Garasweyne in the outskirts of Xudur,⁷⁰⁴ causing at least one civilian casualty.⁷⁰⁵

On 21 July 2022, Liyu police conducting an operation in Yeed town carried out abductions and killed two civilians.⁷⁰⁶

Conflict-related displacement

Between July 2021 and November 2022, 56 735 individuals were newly displaced from Bakool due to conflict or insecurity, according to the UNHCR PRMN⁷⁰⁷. Of these, some 72 % (or

⁶⁹⁴ These include 192 fatalities attributed by ACLED to an Al Shabaab attack on Liyu police on 4 October 2022. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, SOM38191 [sources: Al Furqaan, undisclosed source, Shabelle Media Network, Calamada, Caasimada, Radio Risaala, Hiiraan], [url](#)

⁶⁹⁵ These include 80 fatalities attributed by ACLED to an Al-Shabaab attack on Liyu police and SNA members in Ato town on 29 July 2022. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, SOM37404 [sources: Hiiraan, SomaliMemo, Shabelle Media Network, Caasimada, Radio Dalsan, Radio Risaala, Goobjoob, Al Furqaan], [url](#)

⁶⁹⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁹⁷ The following is a selection of incidents and does not claim to be representative in any sense. Moreover, please note that according to Ken Menkhaus security incidents related to clan conflicts do not always receive local media attention and hence might go under-reported in Somalia. Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#)

⁶⁹⁸ VOA, Al-Shabab Attacks Somali Towns Close to Ethiopian Border, 20 July 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁹⁹ SG, Al-Shabaab says captures two towns along Somalia's border with Ethiopia, 21 July 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁰⁰ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 24

⁷⁰¹ SMN, Liyu police hits back at Al-Shabaab claims over attack, 22 July 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁰² UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 24; SG, Al-Shabaab says captures two towns along Somalia's border with Ethiopia, 21 July 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁰³ Radio Dalsan, Ethiopia conducts air strikes in Somalia's Bakool region, 31 July 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁰⁴ AA, Ethiopian airstrikes hit terrorist-controlled border region in Somalia: Local media, 30 July 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁰⁵ AA, Ethiopian airstrikes hit terrorist-controlled border region in Somalia: Local media, 30 July 2022, [url](#); SG, Ethiopia's military conducts air strikes in Somalia's Bakool region, 31 July 2022, [url](#); Radio Dalsan, Ethiopia conducts air strikes in Somalia's Bakool region, 31 July 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁰⁶ ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, SOM37130 [source: undisclosed source], [url](#)

⁷⁰⁷ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

40 640 individuals) were displaced within the region, while 16 095 individuals were displaced to other regions, especially to Benadir, Gedo and Bay. In the same period, there were no individuals who were displaced to Bakool from other regions due to conflict or insecurity. During the reference period, the districts most affected by this type of displacement, both in terms of departures and arrivals (including movements within the districts), were Rab Dhuure (25 842 departures and 19 620 arrivals) and Ceel Barde district (23 568 departures and 19 293 arrivals).⁷⁰⁸ Apart from drought-related loss of livelihoods, insecurity⁷⁰⁹ linked to Al-Shabaab activity or clan-based disputes was a key driver of displacement from Bakool.⁷¹⁰ Developments in July 2022, the month when Al-Shabaab launched attacks on Yeed, Ato and Waashaqo,⁷¹¹ led to the displacement of 38154 persons and accounted for around 68 % of all displacements from Bakool to other regions or other areas within Bakool.⁷¹²

Other impacts on civilian life

Due to siege-like conditions imposed by Al-Shabaab,⁷¹³ which controlled most of the main supply routes in the South West state,⁷¹⁴ the movement of goods – food and commodity –⁷¹⁵ to government-held centres (notably in Waajid and Xudur districts)⁷¹⁶ was limited.⁷¹⁷ During the reference period, there were instances of Al-Shabaab fighters attacking vehicles transporting food supplies into besieged areas,⁷¹⁸ including donkey carts.⁷¹⁹ These attacks have long been part of the group's tactics of blockading towns in south and central Somalia.⁷²⁰ UNOCHA documented two humanitarian access incidents⁷²¹ in Bakool region between July and September 2021 (both in Ceel Barde district)⁷²² and no such incidents between January and March 2022.⁷²³ No such data was available for the period between October and December 2021 and between April and November 2022.

⁷⁰⁸ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁰⁹ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#); Edle, A., Bay and Bakool: How Somalia's Breadbasket turned into an epicenter of humanitarian crisis [Blog], RVI, 24 March 2022, [url](#)

⁷¹⁰ Edle, A., Bay and Bakool: How Somalia's Breadbasket turned into an epicenter of humanitarian crisis [Blog], RVI, 24 March 2022, [url](#)

⁷¹¹ VOA, Al-Shabab Attacks Somali Towns Close to Ethiopian Border, 20 July 2022, [url](#)

⁷¹² UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

⁷¹³ ACAPS, Somalia: Food Security, Briefing Note, 16 November 2021, [url](#), p. 3

⁷¹⁴ HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), p. 23

⁷¹⁵ USDOS, 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Somalia, 12 April 2022, [url](#), p. 17

⁷¹⁶ USDOS, 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Somalia, 12 April 2022, [url](#), p. 17

⁷¹⁷ International Crisis Group, Considering Political Engagement with Al-Shabaab in Somalia, 21 June 2022, [url](#), p. 6

⁷¹⁸ AA, Al-Shabaab blockades exacerbating humanitarian crisis in Somalia, 18 November 2022, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Somali military kill 4 Al-Shabaab fighters in Bakool, 20 October 2021, [url](#); UN Security Council, Letter dated 5 October 2021 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2021/849, 6 October 2021, [url](#), para. 13

⁷¹⁹ AA, Al-Shabaab blockades exacerbating humanitarian crisis in Somalia, 18 November 2022, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Somali military kill 4 Al-Shabaab fighters in Bakool, 20 October 2021, [url](#)

⁷²⁰ Hiiraan Online, Somali military kill 4 Al-Shabaab fighters in Bakool, 20 October 2021, [url](#)

⁷²¹ Such incidents include the following types: 'ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance', 'ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance' and 'armed hostilities preventing access'. UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), p. 1

⁷²² UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), p. 1

⁷²³ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 1 (January - March 2022), 17 July 2022, [url](#), p. 1

Data accessed through the NRC Eviction Information Portal⁷²⁴ listed no evictions in the Bakool region for the period from July 2021 to November 2022.⁷²⁵ Joint IDP site verification exercises by the Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) in June and July 2022 found that of the 3 verified IDP sites in Ceel Barde and the 9 verified IDP sites in Waajid, none was classified as having an extreme or high risk of eviction, while of the 16 IDP sites verified in Xudur, 6 % were classified as having extreme and 13 % as having high risk of eviction.⁷²⁶ Detailed site assessments (DSA) conducted by REACH and the CCCM Cluster in November and December 2021 indicated that the ‘proportion of assessed sites where KIs [key informants] reported perceiving a very high risk of forced eviction’ was 39 % in Xudur district⁷²⁷ and 0 % in both Ceel Barde⁷²⁸ and Waajid districts.⁷²⁹

2.2.2. Bay

(a) Background

The Bay region shares internal borders with Bakool, Lower Shabelle, Middle Jubba, and Gedo. It consists of four districts: Baydhaba, Buur Hakaba, Qansax Dheere, and Diinsoor. The region’s capital is Baidoa⁷³⁰ (locally known as Baydhabo).⁷³¹ While the official capital of the South West State is Baraawe in Lower Shabelle region,⁷³² the strategically important city of Baidoa⁷³³ serves as the de facto capital of the South West State. It is the most populous city in the region and hosts a large contingent of AU troops in the protected airport zone.⁷³⁴

In economic terms, Bay region primarily relies on subsistence farming and agro-pastoralism, and the majority of its inhabitants are sedentary. Identification with one’s own village is often just as important as sub-clan affiliation. Moreover, the region is of significant strategic and commercial importance, with a key commercial road running from Mogadishu through Baidoa towards Gedo region and the Kenyan border.⁷³⁵

⁷²⁴ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

⁷²⁵ NRC, Eviction Information Portal, Data Sets, Somalia – July 2021–November 2022, as of 9 December 2022, [url](#)

⁷²⁶ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Ceel Barde Verified IDP Sites – June 2022, 26 July 2022, [url](#); CCCM Cluster Somalia, Waajid Verified IDP Sites – July 2022, 26 July 2022, [url](#); CCCM Cluster Somalia, Xudur Verified IDP Sites – July 2022, 26 July 2022, [url](#)

⁷²⁷ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Xudur district, Bakool region, March 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁷²⁸ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Ceel Barde district, Bakool region, March 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁷²⁹ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Waajid district, Bakool region, March 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁷³⁰ MSF, Somalia – General Reference Map, 11 October 2022, [url](#); UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#)

⁷³¹ South West State Ministry of Public Works, Reconstruction and Housing, Baidoa Urban Profile 2020, [url](#), p. 8; Encyclopaedia Britannica, Somalia, last updated 2 December 2022, [url](#)

⁷³² Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 73

⁷³³ South West State Ministry of Public Works, Reconstruction and Housing, Baidoa Urban Profile 2020, [url](#), p. 8

⁷³⁴ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 73

⁷³⁵ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), pp. 73–74



The Bay region is mainly inhabited by Rahanweyn clans, with Mirifle clans mainly populating the northern half and the Digil predominating in the south.⁷³⁶ As in Bakool, the Mirifle are divided into two large groups, the Sagaal and Sideed.⁷³⁷ Small communities of Hawiye groups are also found in the region: Hawadle, Doqondiide and Sheikhal in the south and Jajele, Dirisamo and Sogow in the east.⁷³⁸

Baidoa town is primarily populated by the Mirifle clan.⁷³⁹ As other Somali cities, Baidoa is informally divided into neighbourhood by subclans,⁷⁴⁰ with the Sagaal dominant in the western and southwestern parts of the city and the Sideed predominating in its east and northeast.⁷⁴¹ Large numbers of Digil-Mirifle refugee returnees from Kenya are now living in fast-growing IDP camps in Baidoa.⁷⁴² According to a September 2021 report, about a quarter of IDP settlements in the country were located in and around Baidoa, mostly on the outskirts of the city.⁷⁴³ Many of the IDPs do not belong to sub-clans indigenous to Baidoa town and are changing the city's sub-clan demographics⁷⁴⁴ as they form settlements based on their own clan identity and composition of the rural places they originate from. At the same time, those with ties to the city's indigenous clans settle based on their social ties with the host communities.⁷⁴⁵

A December 2022 IPC document listed the population of Bay as 1 287 587 in 2022.⁷⁴⁶ UNOCHA estimated the population of Bay in 2021 at 1 055 914 (including 198 394 men, 191 786 women, 614 898 children, and 50 836 elderly people).⁷⁴⁷ The 2014 Population Estimation Survey conducted by UNFPA and Somali authorities⁷⁴⁸ estimated that the population⁷⁴⁹ of the Bay region was 792 182, of whom 93 046 lived in urban areas, 463 330 in

⁷³⁶ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 74

⁷³⁷ Nordic International Support Foundation, Somalia Context Analysis: Baidoa, 2016, n.d., p. 17, non public source, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 74

⁷³⁸ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 74

⁷³⁹ Nordic International Support Foundation, Somalia Context Analysis: Baidoa, 2016, n.d., p. 17, non public source, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 74; NRC, 'I want my land. You have to go.' Understanding the eviction phenomenon in Baidoa, 16 September 2021, [url](#), p. 34

⁷⁴⁰ Nordic International Support Foundation, Somalia Context Analysis: Baidoa, 2016, n.d., p. 17, non public source, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 74

⁷⁴¹ NRC, 'I want my land. You have to go.' Understanding the eviction phenomenon in Baidoa, 16 September 2021, [url](#), p. 34

⁷⁴² Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 74

⁷⁴³ NRC, 'I want my land. You have to go.' Understanding the eviction phenomenon in Baidoa, 16 September 2021, [url](#), p. 32

⁷⁴⁴ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 74

⁷⁴⁵ NRC, 'I want my land. You have to go.' Understanding the eviction phenomenon in Baidoa, 16 September 2021, [url](#), p. 34

⁷⁴⁶ IPC, Nearly 8.3 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes [Table], 13 December 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁷⁴⁷ UNOCHA, Somalia – 2021 Population Figures and Disaggregation, 7 December 2021, [url](#)

⁷⁴⁸ According to the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) of 2020, the 2014 Population Estimation Survey of Somalia 'is the most recent nationwide population estimation exercise undertaken in Somalia.' Somalia, NBS, The Somali Health and Demographic Survey 2020, 30 April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

⁷⁴⁹ As of 2022, the 2014 estimates remain the figures used in the latest official publications of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). See e.g., Somalia, Somalia Data Portal, Population – Dashboards, 1 March 2022, [url](#)



rural areas, and 195 986 were nomads.⁷⁵⁰ For figures on IDPs, see subsection below on conflict-related displacement.

(b) Actors' presence and conflict dynamics

Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence (along with other actors)

The Bay region has been characterised by the presence of a variety of armed actors.⁷⁵¹ Al-Shabaab has been mainly controlling its rural areas,⁷⁵² while state and federal state forces maintained control of the main towns⁷⁵³ (Baidoa, Buur Hakaba, Qansax Dheere, Diinsoor, and Bardale).⁷⁵⁴ According to [Map 4. Somalia - Approximate Territorial Control](#), as of 30 November 2022 the town of Bulo-Fulay, parts of Lego town, as well as about half of Bay's non-urban territory were under Al-Shabaab control. Control of the countrysides of the towns of Baidoa, Buur Hakaba, Diinsoor and Qansax Dheere was either mixed (between Al-Shabaab and the coalition of ATMIS and federal government forces) or unclear.⁷⁵⁵

In February 2022, Al-Shabaab briefly captured Diinsoor town on 5 February 2022.⁷⁵⁶ Meanwhile, anti-Al-Shabaab operations reportedly resulted in the recapture of Al-Shabaab-held villages.⁷⁵⁷ Militia members and SNA troops reportedly took over several Al-Shabaab-controlled settlements on the outskirts of Baidoa city in late September 2022.⁷⁵⁸ Information confirming whether or not the anti-Al-Shabaab forces remained in control of these areas as of late November 2022 could not be found within the time constraints of this report.

The situation in Baidoa, a city freed from Al-Shabaab control in 2012, has been described as 'comparatively stable'.⁷⁵⁹ However, the city's surroundings, though not firmly in Al-Shabaab hands,⁷⁶⁰ were under the group's influence.⁷⁶¹ According to a security expert interviewed in 2021, Al-Shabaab allowed the movement of goods into the city of Baidoa upon payment of taxes.⁷⁶² At the same time, other major towns like Qansax Dheere and Diinsoor were subject

⁷⁵⁰ UNFPA, Population Estimation Survey 2014, Somalia, October 2014, [url](#), p. 31

⁷⁵¹ UN Security Council, Letter dated 5 October 2021 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751(1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2021/849, 6 October 2021, [url](#), para. 130

⁷⁵² Edle, A., Bay and Bakool: How Somalia's Breadbasket turned into an epicenter of humanitarian crisis [Blog], RVI, 24 March 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁵³ Interview with Somali security expert I, 20 and 27 June 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 74

⁷⁵⁴ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

⁷⁵⁵ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

⁷⁵⁶ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 20

⁷⁵⁷ Radio Risaala, Ciidamada dowladda oo la wareegay degaano katirsan Gobolka Baay [Government forces have taken over areas in the Bay region], 18 May 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁵⁸ VOA, Somalia Military Makes Gains in Large-scale Offensive Against Al-Shabab, 26 September 2022, [url](#); Garowe Online, [Twitter], posted on: 25 September 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁵⁹ NRC, 'I want my land. You have to go.' Understanding the eviction phenomenon in Baidoa, 16 September 2021, [url](#), p. 32

⁷⁶⁰ BBC News, Somalia drought: The fight for survival as famine looms, 4 October 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁶¹ NRC, 'I want my land. You have to go.' Understanding the eviction phenomenon in Baidoa, 16 September 2021, [url](#), p. 32

⁷⁶² Interview with Somali security expert I, 20 and 27 June 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 74

to a blockade by Al-Shabaab,⁷⁶³ which controlled nearly all of the main supply routes in the South West state.⁷⁶⁴

Conflict dynamics

Bay has been one of the country's regions most affected by Al-Shabaab activity (along with Benadir and Lower Shabelle).⁷⁶⁵ Its overall high concentration of IED attacks⁷⁶⁶ has been linked to the large number of government installations⁷⁶⁷ and heavy presence of security forces⁷⁶⁸ that have both become regular targets of anti-government elements.⁷⁶⁹

Conflict-related dynamics in the reference period included ongoing confrontations between Al-Shabaab and anti-Al-Shabaab forces, including SNA troops,⁷⁷⁰ South West State regional security forces⁷⁷¹ (including police forces),⁷⁷² AMISOM/ATMIS forces⁷⁷³ (including at Baidoa airport),⁷⁷⁴ Ethiopian military forces,⁷⁷⁵ and local clan-based militias.⁷⁷⁶

⁷⁶³ International Crisis Group, Considering Political Engagement with Al-Shabaab in Somalia, 21 June 2022, [url](#), p. 6, footnote 21

⁷⁶⁴ HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), p. 23

⁷⁶⁵ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 15; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 13

⁷⁶⁶ OHCHR and UNSOM, Shattering the Foundation of Peace Security and Human Rights in Somalia: The Use of Improvised Explosive Devices by Al-Shabaab, 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2021, 2022, [url](#), p. 6; UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), p. 105

⁷⁶⁷ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), p. 105

⁷⁶⁸ OHCHR and UNSOM, Shattering the Foundation of Peace Security and Human Rights in Somalia: The Use of Improvised Explosive Devices by Al-Shabaab, 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2021, 2022, [url](#), p. 6; UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), p. 105

⁷⁶⁹ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), p. 105

⁷⁷⁰ SomaliMemo, Saldhigyo ay ciidamada ATMIS ku leeyihiin Koonfurta Soomaaliya oo weeraro la kulmay. [ATMIS military bases in Southern Somalia attacked], 20 September 2022, [url](#); Goobjoog, SNA foil attack on Dinsoor army base, kill 7 Al-Shabaab fighters, 12 April 2022, [url](#); Goobjoog, SNA reclaims base 'overrun' by Al-Shabaab in Bay region-military, 23 November 2021, [url](#)

⁷⁷¹ Radio Al-Furqaan, Qaraxyo Khasaare Lagu Gaarsiiyay Askarta DF Oo Ka Dhacay Sh/Hoose Iyo Baay. [Blasts deliver damage to SNA troops in Lower Shabelle and Bay], 28 August 2022, [url](#); Radio Al-Furqaan, Sarkaal Iyo Askari Katirsan Koonfur-Galbeed Oo Xalay Lagu Dhaawacay Weerar Ka Dhacay Magaalada Baydhabo. [Officer and soldier in South-West injured last night in attack in Baidoa], 19 April 2022, [url](#); SomaliMemo, Taliyaha ciidanka maamulka 'Koonfur Galbeed' oo isku day dil ka badbaaday. [Commander of the 'South West' administration survives assassination attempt], 17 November 2021, [url](#)

⁷⁷² SomaliMemo, Weeraro cusub oo lagu miray saldhigyada ciidamada Shisheeye ee Koonfurta Soomaaliya. [Fresh attacks on foreign military bases in Southern Somalia], 21 April 2022, [url](#); SomaliMemo, Dagaallo culus oo ka dhacay Muqdisho, Jazeera, Baydhabo iyo Afgooye. [Heavy fighting takes place in Mogadishu, Jazeera, Baydhabo and Afgoye], 13 April 2022, [url](#); SomaliMemo, Weeraro ka dhacay Baydhabo, Afgooye iyo Bariire. [Attacks in Baidoa, Afgoye and Bariire], 6 September 2021, [url](#)

⁷⁷³ SomaliMemo, 13 Askari Itoobiyaan ah oo ku dhintay weeraro ka dhacay duleedyada Xudur iyo Baydhabo. [13 Ethiopian soldiers die in attacks in Hudur and Baidoa], 12 May 2022, [url](#); Calamada, Inka Badan 10 Askari Itoobiyaan Ah Oo Ku Dhaawacmay Duqeyn Ka Dhacay Gobalka Baay. [More than 10 Ethiopian soldiers injured in an attack in the Bay region], 9 May 2022, [url](#); UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 23; SomaliMemo, 5 Askari Yugaandheys ah oo lagu dilay Sh/Hoose iyo Itoobiyaan lagu weeraray gobolka Baay. [5 Ugandan soldiers were killed in Lower Shabelle; Ethiopians attacked in the Bay region], 17 October 2021, [url](#)

⁷⁷⁴ Radio Al-Furqaan, Howlgallo Kala Duwan Oo Ka Dhacay Lamu Iyo Qeybo Kamid Ah Goballada Dalka. [Various operations in Lamu and other parts of the country], 27 January 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁷⁵ SomaliMemo, 5 Askari Yugaandheys ah oo lagu dilay Sh/Hoose iyo Itoobiyaan lagu weeraray gobolka Baay. [5 Ugandan soldiers killed in Lower Shabelle and Ethiopians attacked in the Bay region], 17 October 2021, [url](#); Radio Al-Furqaan, Howlgallo Kala Duwan Oo Ka Dhacay Lamu Iyo Qeybo Kamid Ah Goballada Dalka. [Various operations took place in Lamu and elsewhere in the country], 27 January 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁷⁶ VOA, Somalia Military Makes Gains in Large-scale Offensive Against Al-Shabab, 26 September 2022, [url](#)

Al-Shabaab conducted a series of attacks on AMISOM/ATMIS bases in Diinsoor⁷⁷⁷ and briefly took over the town in February 2022.⁷⁷⁸ Meanwhile, several anti-Al-Shabaab operations were conducted by South West State security and intelligence forces⁷⁷⁹ and government military forces.⁷⁸⁰ In August/September 2022, as part of a popular uprising, clan-based, government-backed *Macawiisley* militia launched an offensive against Al-Shabaab,⁷⁸¹ with reports of heavy fighting.⁷⁸² Al-Shabaab meanwhile carried out several IED attacks targeting officials of the South West State administration inside Baidoa⁷⁸³ and Buur Hakaba towns⁷⁸⁴ and attacked the South-West State presidential palace in Baidoa with mortars.⁷⁸⁵ Moreover, several unclaimed IED attacks targeted places frequented by civilians.⁷⁸⁶ Al-Shabaab also carried out at least one targeted killing of a former electoral delegate⁷⁸⁷ and executed several civilians it accused of spying,⁷⁸⁸ while security forces executed without due process three civilians for having alleged links to Al-Shabaab.⁷⁸⁹

At the same time, the situation in the city of Baidoa was significantly shaped by dynamics between clans/sub-clans, sedentary/pastoralist groups, as well as IDPs, returnees from abroad, and host communities. In this context, the city experienced conflicts over land ownership, scarce natural resources (including water) and humanitarian aid, some of them fought along clan lines.⁷⁹⁰

⁷⁷⁷ UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751(1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 117, 118

⁷⁷⁸ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 20

⁷⁷⁹ SD, South West Security forces arrest members of Al-Shabaab, 2 April 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁸⁰ Radio Risaala, Ciidamada dowladda oo la wareegay degaano katirsan Gobolka Baay [Government forces have taken over areas in the Bay region], 18 May 2022, [url](#); Keydmedia, Somali troops kill over 100 militants as they capture fresh areas, 12 September 2022, [url](#); Radio Risaala, Taliska Ciidanka xoogga dalka oo soo bandhigay Xubin ka tirsan Al-Shabaab [Command of the country's armed forces parades Al-Shabaab member], 20 January 2022, [url](#); Radio Risaala, Taliska Ciidanka xoogga oo soo bandhigay Sarkaal ka tirsan Al-Shabaab oo isku soo dhiibay [Armed Forces Command parades a surrendered Al-Shabaab officer], 9 September 2021, [url](#)

⁷⁸¹ VOA, Somalia Military Makes Gains in Large-scale Offensive Against Al-Shabab, 26 September 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁸² SomaliMemo, Weeraro Askar lagu dilay oo ka dhacay duleedyada Baydhabo iyo Beled Xaawo. [Soldiers killed in attacks in Baidoa and Beled Hawo], 26 September 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁸³ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 25; Radio Al-Furqaan, Qarax Lala Eegtay Musuul Katirsan Koonfur-Galbeed Oo Ka Dhacay Duleedka Baydhabo [Blast hits southwest Mosul outside of Baidoa], 3 March 2022, [url](#); Calamada, Wasiir Ka Tirsan Maamulka Koonfur Galbeed Oo Isku Day Dil Ka Badbaaday. [South West administration minister survives assassination attempt], 5 February 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁸⁴ Keydmedia, Masuuliyiin ka tirsan Koonfur galbeed oo qarax lala eegtay [Officials in the South West were investigated for the explosion], 20 September 2021, [url](#)

⁷⁸⁵ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 23; SG, Mortar Bombs Strike Somali Region's Presidential Palace As Parliamentary Vote Gets Underway, 28 November 2021, [url](#)

⁷⁸⁶ Mogadishu Times, Dhimasho Iyo Dhaawac Ka Dhashay Qarax Maanta Ka Dhacay Suuq Ku Yaalla G/Baay [Death and injury caused by an explosion today in a market in Bay region], 5 December 2021, [url](#); FTL, Five Civilians Killed in IED Explosion in Bardale Town, 20 November 2021, [url](#); SomaliMemo, Weeraro Askar lagu dilay oo ka dhacay Xudur iyo Diinsoor. [Attacks kill soldiers in Hudur and Dinsoor], 29 August 2021, [url](#)

⁷⁸⁷ SomaliMemo, Ergay Xildhibaan soo xulay oo Baydhabo lagu dilay iyo warar kale. [Electoral delegate killed in Baidoa and other news], 22 September 2021, [url](#)

⁷⁸⁸ Mogadishu Times, Al-Shabaab oo Goob fagaaro ah ku toogtay Hal Ruux [Al-Shabaab shoots one person in public], 31 January 2022, [url](#); Radio Dalsan, Al-Shabaab publicly executes 6 people for spying, 31 July 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁸⁹ UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Somalia: Report of the Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in Somalia, A/HRC/51/65, 19 August 2022, [url](#), para. 51

⁷⁹⁰ NRC, 'I want my land. You have to go.' Understanding the eviction phenomenon in Baidoa, 16 September 2021, [url](#), p. 55

(c) Recent security incidents and trends

Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), civilian casualties

In the reference period, ACLED reported 310 security incidents in Bay region, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violent acts against civilians, causing 302 fatalities ([Figure 23](#)).⁷⁹¹

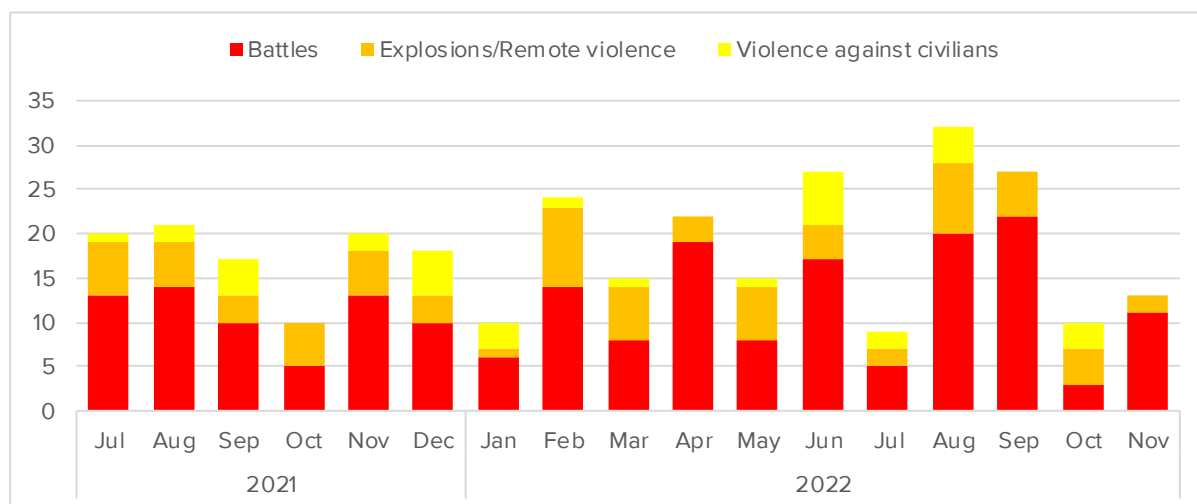


Figure 23. Bay – Evolution of security incidents coded battles, explosion/remote violence, and violence against civilians from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.⁷⁹²

At the district level, Baydhaba district recorded the highest number of security incidents (216 incidents) between July 2021 and November 2022, followed by Diinsoor district (45 incidents) ([Figure 24](#)).⁷⁹³

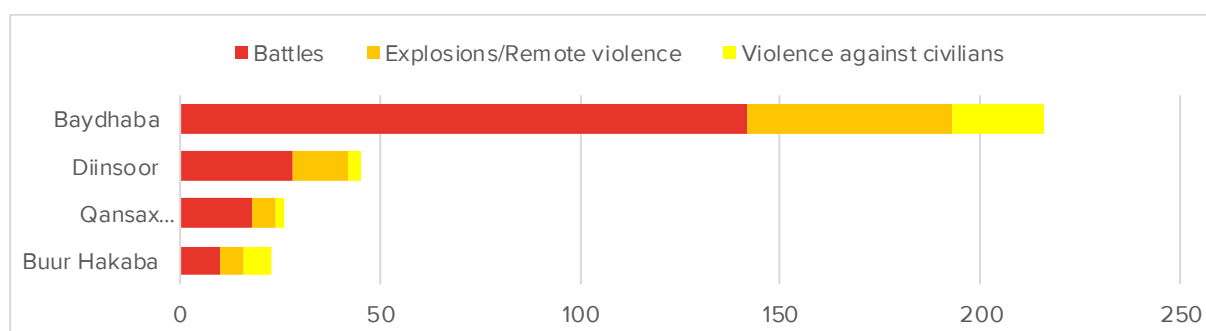


Figure 24. Bay – Breakdown of security incidents per district from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.⁷⁹⁴

⁷⁹¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁹² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁹³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁹⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

For reference period, ACLED reported Al-Shabaab being involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)⁷⁹⁵ in 279 security incidents in the Bay administrative region (194 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 63 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 22 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in a total of 283 fatalities. Somali security forces (military and police forces) were reportedly involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 214 security incidents (169 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 33 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 12 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in 183 fatalities.⁷⁹⁶

While no overall dataset could be found on the number of conflict-related civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) in the region, [Table 6](#) shows the numbers of incidents and estimated fatalities (without distinction as to civilian and non-civilian) in Bay region that were recorded by ACLED between July 2021 and end of November 2022, by type of incident:

Bay	Number of incidents	Number of estimated fatalities
Battles	198	208
Explosions/Remote violence	77	59
Violence against civilians	35	35
Total	310	302

Table 6. Bay – number of security incidents and fatalities by type of incident for the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data. ⁷⁹⁷

Of the 302 fatalities recorded in Bay between July 2021 and end of November 2022, most (207 fatalities) were reported in Baydhaba district, followed by Buur Hakaba district (37 fatalities), Diinsoor (35 fatalities), and Qansax Dheere district (23 fatalities).⁷⁹⁸

Illustrative security incidents with (high) impact on civilians⁷⁹⁹

On 31 July 2022, Al-Shabaab announced that it had executed six men in the town of Buulay on accusations of spying on behalf of the Somali and US governments.⁸⁰⁰

On 29 July 2022, an IED attack by Al-Shabaab in Baidoa killed the Minister of Justice and Judiciary Affairs of the South West State, Hassan Ibrahim Hassan ‘Lugbur’ and his son.⁸⁰¹ At least nine more people were injured.⁸⁰²

⁷⁹⁵ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

⁷⁹⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁹⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁹⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁹⁹ The following is a selection of incidents and does not claim to be representative in any sense. Moreover, please note that according to Ken Menkhaus security incidents related to clan conflicts do not always receive local media attention and hence might go under-reported in Somalia. Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#)

⁸⁰⁰ Radio Dalsan, Al-Shabaab publicly executes 6 people for spying, 31 July 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁰¹ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 25; SD, South West forces carrying out security operations in Baidoa, 30 July 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁰² UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 25

On 5 December 2021, in Awdinle, a remote-controlled IED exploded in a teahouse at a market, killing at least four people and injuring five others.⁸⁰³ The venue was reportedly frequented by both local civilians and soldiers.⁸⁰⁴

On 19 November 2021, five civilians were killed in an IED attack on a market in Berdale town. Another 12 people were injured.⁸⁰⁵

On 22 November 2022, Al-Shabaab attacked a military base in Deynunay area. The ensuing battle between SNA and South West troops and Al-Shabaab resulted in an unspecified number of deaths and injuries.⁸⁰⁶

Conflict-related displacement

Between July 2021 and November 2022, 25 567 individuals were newly displaced from Bay due to conflict or insecurity, according to the UNHCR PRMN⁸⁰⁷. Of these, some 37 % (or 9 467 individuals) were displaced within the region, while 16 100 individuals were displaced to other regions, especially Benadir. In the same period, conflict and insecurity resulted in 942 individuals arriving in Bay from Bakool and Nugal. During the reference period, Diinsoor was the district most affected by this type of displacement in terms of departures (17 945 individuals), while Baydhaba was the district most affected in terms of arrivals (4 790 individuals) (including movements within the districts).⁸⁰⁸

Apart from drought-related loss of livelihoods, insecurity⁸⁰⁹ linked to Al-Shabaab activity or clan-based disputes was a key driver of displacement from Bay.⁸¹⁰ Insecurity and taxation by Al-Shabaab contributed to large-scale movement from Bay's Al-Shabaab-controlled rural areas to government-controlled cities like Baidoa and Mogadishu.⁸¹¹ The clashes that erupted in Diinsoor town in February 2022⁸¹² led to the displacement of almost 17 500 people,⁸¹³ with residents temporarily vacating the town and moving to Baidoa or surrounding villages.⁸¹⁴

⁸⁰³ Mogadishu Times, Dhimasho Iyo Dhaawac Ka Dhashay Qarax Maanta Ka Dhacay Suuq Ku Yaalla G/Baay [Death and injury caused by an explosion today in a market in Bay region], 5 December 2021, [url](#); Mareeg, Five dead as blast hits tea shop in Somalia, 5 December 2021, [url](#)

⁸⁰⁴ Mareeg, Five dead as blast hits tea shop in Somalia, 5 December 2021, [url](#)

⁸⁰⁵ FTL, Five Civilians Killed in IED Explosion in Bardale Town, 20 November 2021, [url](#)

⁸⁰⁶ Mustaqbal Media, Somalia: SNA repulse Alshabab attack on military base in Baidoa, kill several., 22 November 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁰⁷ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

⁸⁰⁸ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁰⁹ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#); Edle, A., Bay and Bakool: How Somalia's Breadbasket turned into an epicenter of humanitarian crisis [Blog], RVI, 24 March 2022, [url](#)

⁸¹⁰ Edle, A., Bay and Bakool: How Somalia's Breadbasket turned into an epicenter of humanitarian crisis [Blog], RVI, 24 March 2022, [url](#)

⁸¹¹ Edle, A., Bay and Bakool: How Somalia's Breadbasket turned into an epicenter of humanitarian crisis [Blog], RVI, 24 March 2022, [url](#)

⁸¹² UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751(1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 117

⁸¹³ USAID, Somalia - Complex Emergency Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, 28 March 2022, [url](#), p. 3

⁸¹⁴ UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751(1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 117

Other impacts on civilian life

During the period from 16 December 2021 to 7 September 2022,⁸¹⁵ the UN Panel of Experts on Somalia recorded a worsening of humanitarian access restrictions as a result of Al-Shabaab activity in the Bay region.⁸¹⁶ UNOCHA documented two humanitarian access incidents⁸¹⁷ in Bay region between July and September 2021⁸¹⁸ and one such incident between January and March 2022.⁸¹⁹ No such data was available for the period between October and December 2021 and between April and November 2022.

In areas of Bay (and Bakool) controlled by Al-Shabaab,⁸²⁰ including in the vicinity of government-controlled towns under blockade, the group continued to impose strict limitations on economic activities⁸²¹ and the delivery of humanitarian aid,⁸²² using threats and violence against those defying their policies.⁸²³ Thus, the humanitarian conditions in the besieged areas were reported to be dire.⁸²⁴

As documented by the UN Panel of Experts in June 2022, Al-Shabaab destroyed water points in Qansax Dheere district, reportedly in an attempt to prevent state security forces from accessing water supplies, and seized control of water points in Buur Hakaba district's Buula Fulay area, taxing local pastoralist communities for water consumption.⁸²⁵ Similarly, when local residents started to return to Diinsoor after being displaced in the conflict that erupted there in February 2022, Al-Shabaab required them to obtain a 'farming permit' in order to be allowed to tend to their farms. The UN Panel of Experts recorded seven incidents of civilians being subjected to violence, or their properties being confiscated or destroyed by Al-Shabaab in villages around Diinsoor for not complying with the ban.⁸²⁶

⁸¹⁵ UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751(1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 1

⁸¹⁶ UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751(1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 110

⁸¹⁷ Such incidents include the following types: 'ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance', 'ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance' and 'armed hostilities preventing access'. UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), p. 1

⁸¹⁸ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), p. 1

⁸¹⁹ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 1 (January - March 2022), 17 July 2022, [url](#), p. 1

⁸²⁰ USDOS, 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Somalia, 12 April 2022, [url](#), p. 25

⁸²¹ UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751(1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 117

⁸²² USDOS, 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Somalia, 12 April 2022, [url](#), p. 25

⁸²³ UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751(1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 117

⁸²⁴ Keydmedia, Degmada Qoryooley garab-qabad ayay rabtaa, 26 September 2021, [url](#)

⁸²⁵ UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751(1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 122

⁸²⁶ UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751(1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 117

Data accessed through the NRC Eviction Information Portal⁸²⁷ listed 1 884 individuals as having been forcibly⁸²⁸ evicted in the Bay region during the period from July 2021 to November 2022 (all evictions took place in Baydhaba district).⁸²⁹ A joint IDP site verification exercise by the Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) in July 2022 found that of the 498 verified IDP sites in Baydhaba district, 8 % were classified as having extreme and 6 % as having high risk of eviction.⁸³⁰

2.2.3. Lower Shabelle

(a) Background

Lower Shabelle region is situated along the coast of south Somalia and shares internal borders with Middle Jubba, Bay, Bakool, Hiiraan, Middle Shabelle, and Banadir regions. Lower Shabelle is divided into seven districts: Wanla Weyn, Afgooye, Qoryooley, Marka, Kurtunwaarey, Sablaale and Baraawe. The region's capital is Marka,⁸³¹ while the city of Baraawe is the capital of the South West State.⁸³² (Baidoa, meanwhile, serves de facto capital of the state.)⁸³³

As one of Somalia's top food-producing areas,⁸³⁴ Lower Shabelle has been a region of key strategic importance, with two main roads connecting Mogadishu to Baidoa and Kismayo passing through the region. It also features the port towns of Marka and Baraawe.⁸³⁵ Lower Shabelle has been described as the country's most militarized region where SNA, AU, and US forces have been battling against Al-Shabaab.⁸³⁶ Moreover, the Afgooye corridor, stretching from Mogadishu to Afgooye/Lower Shabelle, has seen rapid growth of peri-urban settlements on the outskirts of Mogadishu and the creation of large new IDP camps.⁸³⁷ Over one-fifth of the country's IDP settlements are located in Lower Shabelle.⁸³⁸

The structure of Lower Shabelle's population has been described as highly diverse, complex, and contested. Long-term indigenous communities include a large number of Digil-Mirifle sub-clans (the largest of which include the Eelay, Bagadi, Tunni, Tunni-Tore, Garre, Geledi, and

⁸²⁷ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

⁸²⁸ NRC defines 'forced evictions' as the 'removal against their will of people from their homes and/or land which they occupy, without any form of legal or other protection'. NRC, *An Unnecessary Burden: Forced Evictions and Covid-19*, 1 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1

⁸²⁹ NRC, *Eviction Information Portal, Data Sets, Somalia – July 2021-November 2022*, as of 9 December 2022, [url](#)

⁸³⁰ CCCM Cluster Somalia, *Baidoa Verified IDP Sites – July 2022*, 26 July 2022, [url](#)

⁸³¹ MSF, *Somalia – General Reference Map*, 11 October 2022, [url](#); UNOCHA, *Somalia Administrative Map*, 31 July 2017, [url](#)

⁸³² Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, *Somalia – Security Situation*, September 2021, [url](#), p. 73

⁸³³ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, *Somalia – Security Situation*, September 2021, [url](#), p. 73

⁸³⁴ OHCHR and UNSOM, *Shattering the Foundation of Peace Security and Human Rights in Somalia: The Use of Improvised Explosive Devices by Al-Shabaab*, 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2021, 2022, [url](#), p. 6

⁸³⁵ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, *Somalia – Security Situation*, September 2021, [url](#), p. 79

⁸³⁶ Keydmedia, *Bomb blast hits Somali military convoy outside port city*, 14 September 2022, [url](#)

⁸³⁷ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, *Somalia – Security Situation*, September 2021, [url](#), p. 79

⁸³⁸ UNOCHA, *2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia*, October 2021, [url](#), p. 37

Jiddu), the Biyomaal (Dir) clan around Marka town, and numerous Hawiye clans (e.g., Abgal, Gaaljaal, and Sheikal) in the east. The coastal trading towns of Marka and Baraawe have also been inhabited by the linguistically distinct Rer Baraawe and Rer Benedari, while there are Somali Bantu communities in rural areas.⁸³⁹ Moreover, armed settlers, mostly from the Habir Gedir (Hawiye) clan, arrived in the region in 1991-92 in the form of powerful clan militias and their families.⁸⁴⁰

A December 2022 IPC document listed the population of Lower Shabelle as 1 425 393 in 2022.⁸⁴¹ UNOCHA estimated the population of Lower Shabelle in 2021 at 1 347 932 (including 223 509 men, 226 887 women, 842 708 children, and 54 828 elderly people).⁸⁴² The 2014 Population Estimation Survey conducted by UNFPA and Somali authorities⁸⁴³ estimated that the population⁸⁴⁴ of Lower Shabelle was 1 202 219, of which 215 752 lived in urban areas, 723 682 in rural areas, and 159 815 were nomads.⁸⁴⁵ For figures on IDPs, see subsection below on conflict-related displacement.

(b) Actors' presence and conflict dynamics

Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence (along with other actors)

Al-Shabaab maintained an active network throughout the Lower Shabelle region and continued to carry out attacks, control roads and impose taxes despite military offensives being launched against the group. Al-Shabaab has been exploiting local tensions and discontent to forge tactical alliances with clans against rivals.⁸⁴⁶ Maps by Political Geography Now dating from June 2021 and November 2022 showed that large swaths of the region's south and south-west remained under the control of Al-Shabaab.⁸⁴⁷ While the group reportedly seized the town of Buulo Mareer in late March 2022,⁸⁴⁸ a presence of SNA members was reported in the town as of August 2022.⁸⁴⁹ Information regarding the status of Buulo Mareer at the end of November 2022 could not be found within the time constraints of this report.

⁸³⁹ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 79

⁸⁴⁰ Menkhaus, K., Input received during peer review, August 27 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 79

⁸⁴¹ IPC, Nearly 8.3 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes [Table], 13 December 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁸⁴² UNOCHA, Somalia – 2021 Population Figures and Disaggregation, 7 December 2021, [url](#)

⁸⁴³ According to the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) of 2020, the 2014 Population Estimation Survey of Somalia 'is the most recent nationwide population estimation exercise undertaken in Somalia.' Somalia, NBS, The Somali Health and Demographic Survey 2020, 30 April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

⁸⁴⁴ As of 2022, the 2014 estimates remain the figures used in the latest official publications of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). See e.g., Somalia, Somalia Data Portal, Population – Dashboards, 1 March 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁴⁵ UNFPA, Population Estimation Survey 2014, Somalia, October 2014, [url](#), p. 31

⁸⁴⁶ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 80

⁸⁴⁷ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 June 2021, n.a., non-public source; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

⁸⁴⁸ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Banadir news 1700gmt 31 Mar 22, 1 April 2022; BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Kulmiye News 1700gmt 1 Apr 22, 4 April 2022

⁸⁴⁹ SomaliMemo, Weerar Saraakiil Lagu Dilay oo ka Dhacay Sh/Hoose [Officers killed in an attack in Lower Shabelle], 4 August 2022, [url](#)

The towns of Marka, Baraawe, Afgooye, Qoryoley, Wanla Weyn, and Awdhegle were controlled by African Union/federal state forces, while control of their rural surroundings or hinterlands was mostly either contested between Al-Shabaab and the coalition of African Union/federal state forces, or unclear. The same could be seen in the areas of Lower Shabelle located around Benadir/Mogadishu.⁸⁵⁰ Claims of a growing presence of Islamic State in Somalia (ISS) operatives on the outskirts of Mogadishu, including in Elasha Biyaha and Afgooye,⁸⁵¹ could not be corroborated within the time constraints of this report.

Other key players in the region include the political leaderships and militias of the Digil and Biyomaal clans.⁸⁵² Moreover, the *Macawiisley*, a mainly⁸⁵³ clan-based, state-supported independent⁸⁵⁴ locally mobilized militia,⁸⁵⁵ has been mobilised by the community to fight Al-Shabaab⁸⁵⁶ and was active in the region, according to an expert interviewed by ACCORD in April 2022.⁸⁵⁷

Conflict dynamics

The Lower Shabelle region has been one of the regions most affected by Al-Shabaab activity.⁸⁵⁸ As elsewhere in the South West State, the overall high concentration of IED attacks has been linked to factors such as the large presence of security forces fighting against Al-Shabaab,⁸⁵⁹ in addition to the region's crucial economic and strategic status.⁸⁶⁰

The conflict dynamics included an on-going confrontation between Al-Shabaab and anti-Al-Shabaab forces, including SNA troops⁸⁶¹ and AMISOM/ATMIS troops.⁸⁶² Al-Shabaab also attacked several non-military targets, including a polling station,⁸⁶³ South West State⁸⁶⁴ and

⁸⁵⁰ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 June 2021, n.a., non-public source; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

⁸⁵¹ Keydmedia, Kooxda Daacish oo Soomaaliya kusii xoogeysaneysa [ISIS is gaining strength in Somalia], 6 November 2021, [url](#)

⁸⁵² Interview with Somali security expert I, 20 and 27 June 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 80

⁸⁵³ Shire, M.I., email, 14 April 2022. As cited in ACCORD, Anfragebeantwortung zu Somalia: Informationen zur Miliz Macawiisley [Query response on Somalia: Information on Macawiisley militia], 22 April 2022 [url](#). Dr Mohammed Ibrahim Shire is a lecturer at the University of Portsmouth researching terrorism and political violence.

⁸⁵⁴ VOA, Somalia Military Makes Gains in Large-scale Offensive Against Al-Shabab, 26 September 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁵⁵ Keydmedia, A Govt-allied militia attacks Al-Shabaab base in Somalia, 4 September 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁵⁶ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 80

⁸⁵⁷ Shire, M.I., email, 14 April 2022. As cited in ACCORD, Anfragebeantwortung zu Somalia: Informationen zur Miliz Macawiisley [Query response on Somalia: Information on Macawiisley militia], 22 April 2022 [url](#)

⁸⁵⁸ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 15; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 13; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 19

⁸⁵⁹ OHCHR and UNSOM, Shattering the Foundation of Peace Security and Human Rights in Somalia: The Use of Improvised Explosive Devices by Al-Shabaab, 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2021, 2022, [url](#), p. 6

⁸⁶⁰ Interview with Somali security expert I, 20 and 27 June 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), pp. 80-81

⁸⁶¹ Keydmedia, Bomb blast hits Somali military convoy outside port city, 14 September 2022, [url](#); SD, Heavy fighting broke out in Afgoye between government forces and Al Shabaab, 30 May 2022, [url](#); SomaliMemo, Dagaallo Lagu Xasuuqay Maleeshiyaatka uu Tababaro Turkiga oo ka Dhacay Sh/hoose [Battles against Turkish-trained militias in Lower Shabelle], 13 March 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁶² Halbeeg, AU soldiers killed in Lower Shabelle region, 3 July 2022, [url](#); SomaliMemo, Qarax gaari gaashaaman ATMIS looga gubay oo ka dhacay Ceelwareegoow. [ATMIS armored car hit in blast in Eelwareego], 14 June 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁶³ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 15

⁸⁶⁴ Goobjoog, South West Education Ministry official shot dead in Afgoye, 18 June 2022, [url](#)

district officials,⁸⁶⁵ and the Marka district headquarters.⁸⁶⁶ Moreover, the group executed several civilians it accused of spying.⁸⁶⁷ Several IED attacks, some of them claimed by Al-Shabaab,⁸⁶⁸ targeted places frequented by civilians,⁸⁶⁹ including markets in Marka⁸⁷⁰ and Afgoye.⁸⁷¹

Several large-scale operations by the SNA led to the destruction of several Al-Shabaab bases⁸⁷² and other infrastructure.⁸⁷³ A number of villages previously under the group's control were recaptured, including in the vicinity of Afgoye,⁸⁷⁴ Janale⁸⁷⁵ and Awdheegle⁸⁷⁶ towns. As shown by Political Geography Now, as of late November 2022, control of the surroundings of these towns was mostly contested, although Al-Shabaab appeared to exercise a greater degree of control around Janale town.⁸⁷⁷ Incidents affecting civilians also included cases of killings of civilians by AMISOM⁸⁷⁸ and SNA troops⁸⁷⁹ or by US airstrike.⁸⁸⁰

Another major source of conflict revolved around clan-based disputes over land and water and business rivalries. There has been an on-going rivalry between the Hawiye and the non-

⁸⁶⁵ UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751(1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 13; SD, Qoryooley Governor killed in a landmine explosion, 11 October 2022, [url](#); Radio Al-Furqaan, Qarax Culus Oo Goordhow Afgoye Lagula Beegsaday Masuuliyiinta Magaalada. [City authorities targeted in serious explosion], 26 February 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁶⁶ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 25; SD, Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility the blast that killed the Governor of Marko district, 28 July 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁶⁷ Keydmedia, Al-Shabaab says it executed six alleged spies in Somalia, 22 August 2022, [url](#); SomaliMemo, Koox Jawaasiis ah oo markale lagu dilay deegaan katirsan Sh/hoose. [Another group of spies killed in Lower Shabelle], 29 September 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁶⁸ Goobjoog, At least two killed, three injured after explosion goes off in Afgoye, 20 July 2022, [url](#); FTL, Seven people die in Afgoye explosions, 28 July 2022, [url](#); SD, Land mine explosion targets Baraawe business district, 6 September 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁶⁹ Halbeeg, Two people killed in blast in Marka town, 22 September 2021, [url](#); Caasimada, Wararkii ugu dambeeyey ee QARAX ka dhacay MARKA [The latest news about the explosion in Marka], 8 December 2021, [url](#); Goobjoog, At least two killed, three injured after explosion goes off in Afgoye, 20 July 2022, [url](#); FTL, Seven people die in Afgoye explosions, 28 July 2022, [url](#); SD, Land mine explosion targets Baraawe business district, 6 September 2022, [url](#); Keydmedia, A bomb blast hits a busy market near Somali capital, 12 September, 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁷⁰ Caasimada, Wararkii ugu dambeeyey ee QARAX ka dhacay MARKA [The latest news about the explosion in Marka], 8 December 2021, [url](#)

⁸⁷¹ FTL, Seven people die in Afgoye explosions, 28 July 2022, [url](#); Goobjoog, At least two killed, three injured after explosion goes off in Afgoye, 20 July 2022, [url](#); Keydmedia, A bomb blast hits a busy market near Somali capital, 12 September, 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁷² Hiiraan Online, Taliska ciidanka xoogga dalka oo sheegay in howlgal qorsheysan ay ku dileen 13 ka mid ah dagaalamayaasha Al-shabaab, 18 January 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁷³ SD, Army targets Al Shabaab hideouts in Central Somalia, 13 September 2022, [url](#); SD, Somalia: Danab special forces carried out a planned operation in the Mubarak area, 10 September 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁷⁴ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somali's Radio Mogadishu News 1700 gmt 27 Sep 22, 1 October 2022

⁸⁷⁵ Mogadishu Times, Ciidamada Dowladda oo degaano la wareegay [Government forces take over area], 21 February 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁷⁶ AA, Somali military kills 22 al-Shabaab terrorists: Officials, 25 December 2021, [url](#)

⁸⁷⁷ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

⁸⁷⁸ UN Security Council, Letter dated 5 October 2021 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751(1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2021/849, 6 October 2021, [url](#), para. 128; USDOS, 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Somalia, 12 April 2022, [url](#), p. 4; VOA, Somali Governor Says AU Soldiers Killed Civilians After Al-Shabab Ambush, 16 August 2021, [url](#); UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751(1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 128

⁸⁷⁹ FTL, Outrage in Lower Shabelle as Soldiers Kill Two Civilians, 13 June 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁸⁰ SG, US military carries out fresh air strikes in central Somalia, 20 September 2022, [url](#)

Hawiye Biyomaal and Digil clans,⁸⁸¹ while Al-Shabaab seeks to exploit this ‘constant fighting between clans’ to its own benefit.⁸⁸² Clan conflicts have led to killings,⁸⁸³ loss of livelihoods, and displacement.⁸⁸⁴

(c) Recent security incidents and trends

Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), civilian casualties

In the reference period, ACLED reported 960 security incidents in Lower Shabelle, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violent acts against civilians, causing 1 004 fatalities ([Figure 25](#)).⁸⁸⁵

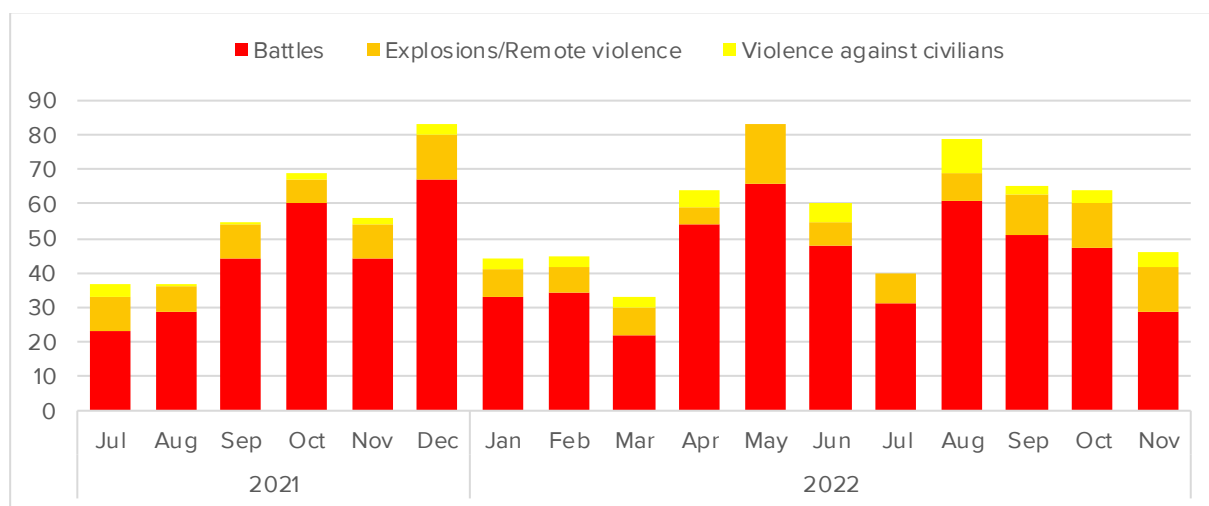


Figure 25. Lower Shabelle – Evolution of security incidents coded battles, explosion/remote violence, and violence against civilians from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data. ⁸⁸⁶

At the district level, Afgooye district recorded the highest number of security incidents (512 incidents) between July 2021 and November 2022, followed by Marka district (292 incidents) ([Figure 26](#)).⁸⁸⁷

⁸⁸¹ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 81

⁸⁸² Interview with Somali security expert I, 20 and 27 June 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 81

⁸⁸³ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), pp. 16, 63; Keydmedia, Dil ka dhacay Marka iyo xiisad caawa magaalada ka taagan [Killing in Marka and tensions in the city tonight], 24 January 2022, [url](#); Radio Risaala, Dhimasho & dhaawac ka dhashay dagaal ka dhacay Sh/Hoose [Deaths & injuries from fighting in Lower Shabelle], 21 August 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁸⁴ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), pp. 16, 63

⁸⁸⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁸⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁸⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

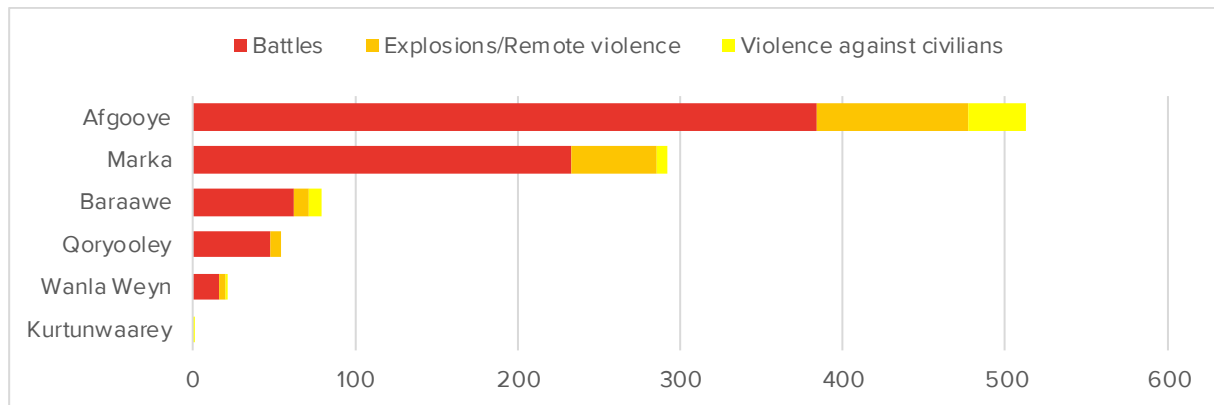


Figure 26. Lower Shabelle – Breakdown of security incidents per district from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.⁸⁸⁸

For reference period, ACLED reported Al-Shabaab being involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)⁸⁸⁹ in 915 security incidents in the Lower Shabelle administrative region (725 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 157 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 33 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in a total of 932 fatalities. Somali security forces (military and police forces) were reportedly involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 624 security incidents (516 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 97 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 11 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in 782 fatalities. Clan and communal militias were involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 15 incidents (10 incidents coded as ‘battles’ and 5 as ‘violence against civilians’).⁸⁹⁰

While no overall dataset could be found on the number of conflict-related civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) in the region, [Table 7](#) shows the numbers of incidents and estimated fatalities (without distinction as to civilian and non-civilian) in Lower Shabelle region that were recorded by ACLED between July 2021 and end of November 2022, by type of incident:

Lower Shabelle	Number of incidents	Number of estimated fatalities
Battles	743	711
Explosions/Remote violence	165	219
Violence against civilians	52	74
Total	960	1004

Table 7. Lower Shabelle – number of security incidents and fatalities by type of incident for the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data.⁸⁹¹

⁸⁸⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁸⁹ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

⁸⁹⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁹¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)



Of the 1 004 fatalities recorded in Lower Shabelle between July 2021 and end of November 2022, most (575 fatalities) were reported in Afgooye district, followed by Marka (218 fatalities), Qoryooley (85 fatalities) and Baraawe districts (65 fatalities).⁸⁹²

Illustrative security incidents with (high) impact on civilians⁸⁹³

On 11 October 2022, the district governor of Qoryooley and several of his bodyguards were killed in an IED attack while travelling on the district's outskirts.⁸⁹⁴

On 29 September 2022, in Kunyo, Al-Shabaab executed six civilians it accused of spying on behalf of the Somali federal government and US intelligence.⁸⁹⁵

In August 2022, clashes that erupted over land between two tribal armed militias in Wanla Weyn district left around 10 people dead.⁸⁹⁶

On 27 July 2022, Al-Shabaab carried out a suicide attack on the Marka district headquarters, killing at least 11 people, including Marka's District Commissioner.⁸⁹⁷

On 9 February 2022, during the House of the People elections, mortars targeting a polling station in Baraawe hit a residential area, killing four civilians.⁸⁹⁸

On 10 August 2021, AMISOM soldiers shot and killed seven civilians, including five farmers, following an ambush by Al-Shabaab.⁸⁹⁹

Conflict-related displacement

Between July 2021 and November 2022, 83 350 individuals were newly displaced from Lower Shabelle due to conflict or insecurity, according to the UNHCR PRMN⁹⁰⁰. Of these, some 14 % (or 11 724 individuals) were displaced within the region, while 71 626 individuals were displaced to other regions, mainly Benadir. In the same period, conflict and insecurity resulted in 5 352 individuals arriving in Lower Shabelle from Middle Shabelle, Hiiraan, Middle Jubba, Galgaduud and Bakool regions. During the reference period, Afgooye was the district most affected by this type of displacement both in terms of departures (69 222 individuals) and arrivals (11 802 individuals) (including movements within the districts).⁹⁰¹

⁸⁹² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁹³ The following is a selection of incidents and does not claim to be representative in any sense. Moreover, please note that according to Ken Menkhaus security incidents related to clan conflicts do not always receive local media attention and hence might go under-reported in Somalia. Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#)

⁸⁹⁴ SD, Qoryooley Governor killed in a landmine explosion, 11 October 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁹⁵ SomaliMemo, Koox Jawaasiis ah oo markale lagu dilay deegaan katirsan Sh/hoose. [Another group of spies killed in Lower Shabelle], 29 September 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁹⁶ Radio Risaala, Dhimasho & dhaawac ka dhashay dagaal ka dhacay Sh/Hoose [Deaths & injuries from fighting in Lower Shabelle], 21 August 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁹⁷ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 25

⁸⁹⁸ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 15

⁸⁹⁹ VOA, Somali Governor Says AU Soldiers Killed Civilians After Al-Shabab Ambush, 16 August 2021, [url](#)

⁹⁰⁰ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

⁹⁰¹ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)



Other impacts on civilian life

UNOCHA documented no humanitarian access incidents⁹⁰² in Lower Shabelle region between July and September 2021⁹⁰³ and one such incident between January and March 2022.⁹⁰⁴ No such data was available for the period between October and December 2021 and between April and November 2022.

Data accessed through the NRC Eviction Information Portal⁹⁰⁵ listed no individuals as having been forcibly evicted in the Lower Shabelle region during the period from July 2021 to November 2022.⁹⁰⁶ A Joint IDP site verification exercise by the Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) in April, May and July 2022 found that of the 47 verified IDP sites in Afgooye, 13 % were classified as having high risk of eviction, while of the 6 IDP sites verified in Wanla Weyn and the 9 IDP sites verified in Marka, none was classified as having extreme or high risk of eviction.⁹⁰⁷ Detailed site assessments (DSA) conducted by REACH and the CCCM Cluster in November and December 2021 indicated that the 'proportion of assessed sites where KIs [key informants] reported perceiving a very high risk of forced eviction' was 0 % in Afgooye⁹⁰⁸ and Marka districts⁹⁰⁹ while it was 60 % in Wanla Weyn district.⁹¹⁰

Clan-related conflicts in Lower Shabelle have been affecting lives and livelihoods,⁹¹¹ while incidents affecting civilians in the region included a case of a girl being gang-raped⁹¹² by government soldiers.⁹¹³

2.2.4. South West State – Checkpoints and road security

There are two main roads in South-West: one running from Mogadishu up through Afgooye, Wanla Weyn, Buurhakaba, and Baidoa, which then continues up toward Waajid, Xudur and Tayeeglow. The middle section of this route from Mogadishu to Baidoa around Leego is controlled by Al-Shabaab. The other big route in Southwest is the coastal highway, going from Afgooye down to Baraawe and eventually descending into Jubbaland.⁹¹⁴

⁹⁰² Such incidents include the following types: 'ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance', 'ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance' and 'armed hostilities preventing access'. UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), p. 1

⁹⁰³ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), p. 1

⁹⁰⁴ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 1 (January - March 2022), 17 July 2022, [url](#), p. 1

⁹⁰⁵ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

⁹⁰⁶ NRC, Eviction Information Portal, Data Sets, Somalia – July 2021-November 2022, as of 9 December 2022, [url](#)

⁹⁰⁷ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Afgooye Verified IDP Sites – April 2022, 7 April 2022, [url](#); CCCM Cluster Somalia, Wanla Weyn Verified IDP Sites – May 2022, 18 May 2022, [url](#); CCCM Cluster Somalia, Marka Verified IDP Sites – July 2022, 27 July 2022, [url](#)

⁹⁰⁸ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Afgooye district, March 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁹⁰⁹ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Marka district, March 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁹¹⁰ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Wanla Weyn district, March 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁹¹¹ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), pp. 16, 63

⁹¹² UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 62; Goobjoog, We will not bury our daughter until justice is served, says family of gang raped girl in Janale, 16 December 2021, [url](#)

⁹¹³ Goobjoog, We will not bury our daughter until justice is served, says family of gang raped girl in Janale, 16 December 2021, [url](#)

⁹¹⁴ International expert, email, 11 December 2022

- **Mogadishu – Afgooye – Baraawe:** The initial section of this road, until Marka, has a significant military footprint. After passing Marka, the only government-held town or district is Baraawe. Its adjacent towns Kurtunwaarey and Sablaale are both under Al-Shabaab control. This route constitutes a key contested area and has created significant problems for AU and SNA forces.
- **Mogadishu – Afgooye – Wanlaweyn – Buurhakaba – Baidoa:** There has been no pro-government security presence at the mid-point of the route at Leego there from either SNA or AMISOM since 2017. AS have checkpoints along this road and the revenue is collated in locations such as Tortoorow (known as AS taxation hub and assembly point), Buur Heybe, Bula Fuuley, which are off the main route between Baidoa and Mogadishu.
- **Baidoa – Xudur:** Xudur district centre has been under a de-facto blockade by al-Shabaab and notable control points by the group include Labatan Jirow.
- **Baidoa - Waajid – Luuq / Baidoa - Berdale – Luuq:** both routes face significant challenges due to al-Shabaab pressure / blockades
- **Baidoa – Diinsoor – Bardheere or Baraawe:** route from Baidoa to Dinsoor contains a number of al-Shabaab checkpoints including Idale, route onwards to either Lower Shabelle or Jubaland also extensively under al-Shabaab control.
- **Tayeeglow and Rab Dhuure:** district centres and the routes to them are under al-Shabaab control.⁹¹⁵

The USDOS noted that in 2021 ‘torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment at the hands of clan militias’ were ‘common along the road from Mogadishu to Afgoye at the hands of Hawiye clan-affiliated militias’, some of whom had strong ties to the SNA.⁹¹⁶

Al-Shabaab attacks have targeted convoys and vehicles carrying of SNA⁹¹⁷ and South West State forces.⁹¹⁸ There were several reports of IED attacks on ATMIS military convoys,⁹¹⁹ including along the road connecting the towns of Ceel Barde and Xudur in Bakool.⁹²⁰ Roadside bomb attacks were also frequent along the road linking Mogadishu to heavily

⁹¹⁵ International expert, email, 11 December 2022

⁹¹⁶ USDOS, 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Somalia, 12 April 2022, [url](#), pp. 6-7

⁹¹⁷ Radio Al-Furqaan, Qarax Khasaare Dhaliyay Oo Ka Dhacay Meel U Dhow Danow, Shabeellaha Hoose. [Blast causes destruction near Danow in Lower Shabelle], 14 March 2022, [url](#); Radio Al-Furqaan, Qarax Ka Dhacay Mareerey & Faahfaan Kamiin Ka Dhacay Duleedka Baydhabo [Explosion in Mareerey & details of an ambush outside Baidoa], 17 March 2022, [url](#)

⁹¹⁸ Radio Al-Furqaan, Al-Shabaab Oo Maanta Weeraro Ka Fulisay Goballada Bay Iyo Galgaduud. [Al-Shabaab carried out attacks today in Bay and Galgaduud regions], 22 March 2022, [url](#); SomaliMemo, Taliyaha ciidanka maamulka 'Koonfur Galbeed' oo isku day dil ka badbaaday. [Commander of the 'South West' administration survives assassination attempt], 17 November 2021, [url](#)

⁹¹⁹ SomaliMemo, Ciidamo Itoobiyaan ah oo lagu qarxiyay duleedka Xudur iyo taliyaha Janaale oo qarax ku dhaawacmay. [Ethiopian soldiers blown up in the outskirts of Hudur; Janale commander injured in blast], 10 May 2022, [url](#); SomaliMemo, Ciidamo Itoobiyaan ah oo qaraxyo lagula beegsaday duleedka Ceelbarde. [Ethiopian troops targeted by explosions on the outskirts of Ceel Barde], 16 May 2022, [url](#); SomaliMemo, Shan (5) Askari oo Itoobiyaan ah oo Lagu Dilay Qarax ka Dhacay Bakool [Five Ethiopian soldiers killed in Bakool blast], 18 May 2022, [url](#)

⁹²⁰ SomaliMemo, Ciidamo Itoobiyaan ah oo lagu qarxiyay duleedka Xudur iyo taliyaha Janaale oo qarax ku dhaawacmay. [Ethiopian soldiers blown up in the outskirts of Hudur; Janale commander injured in blast], 10 May 2022, [url](#)

militarized Lower Shabelle region,⁹²¹ including on the stretch between Mogadishu and Marka.⁹²²

During the reporting period, Al-Shabaab used illegal checkpoints in Lower Shabelle for the purpose of collecting money from civilians and public transport vehicles.⁹²³ Federal forces and Southwest State paramilitary troops reportedly cleared illegal checkpoints run by Al-Shabab militants in several Lower Shabelle villages,⁹²⁴ including in the west of Afgooye district⁹²⁵ and near Wanla Weyn town,⁹²⁶ as well as in the Xudur area,⁹²⁷ and rural areas of Bay.⁹²⁸ Notably, clearances of illegal checkpoints were reported along the main road linking Mogadishu to Bay region, including on the road stretches connecting Leego locality (Lower Shabelle)⁹²⁹ with Buur Hakaba district (Bay),⁹³⁰ Wanla Weyn with Baidoa,⁹³¹ and Deynunay with Baidoa town.⁹³² Information regarding the status of these checkpoints as of end of November 2022 could not be found within the time constraints of this report.

2.3. Benadir and Mogadishu

2.3.1. Background

The Benadir (or Banadir/Benaadir) region is located on the south-eastern coast of Somalia and shares borders with Middle Shabelle and Lower Shabelle regions.⁹³³ The region covers the

⁹²¹ Keydmedia, Bomb blast hits Somali military convoy outside port city, 14 September 2022, [url](#)

⁹²² Keydmedia, Bomb blast hits Somali military convoy outside port city, 14 September 2022, [url](#); Halbeeg, AU soldiers killed in Lower Shabelle region, 3 July 2022, [url](#)

⁹²³ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Kulmiye News 1700 gmt 24 Aug 22, 2 September 2022; BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Mogadishu News 1700gmt 5 Aug 22, 9 August 2022

⁹²⁴ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Risala News 1600 gmt 28 Nov 22, 30 November 2022; BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Mogadishu News 1700gmt 4 Oct 22, 8 October 2022; BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somali's Radio Mogadishu News 1700 gmt 27 Sep 22, 1 October 2022; BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Kulmiye News 1700 gmt 24 Aug 22, 2 September 2022; BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Mogadishu News 1700gmt 5 Aug 22, 9 August 2022

⁹²⁵ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Kulmiye News 1700 gmt 27 Sep 22, 30 September 2022

⁹²⁶ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Risala News 1600 gmt 17 Oct 22, 21 October 2022; BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Mogadishu News 1700 gmt 1 March, 4 March 2022; BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somali's Radio Mogadishu News 1700 gmt 8 Dec 21, 10 December 2021

⁹²⁷ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Kulmiye News 1700 gmt 17 Jan 22, 21 January 2022

⁹²⁸ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somali's Radio Mogadishu News 1700 gmt 13 Dec 21, 16 December 2021; BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Risala News 1600 gmt 2 May 22, 4 May 2022

⁹²⁹ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somali's Radio Mogadishu News 1700 gmt 2 May 22, 4 May 2022

⁹³⁰ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Risala News 1600 gmt 2 May 22, 4 May 2022

⁹³¹ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Banadir news 1700 gmt 2 Jul 21, 6 July 2021

⁹³² BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somali's Radio Mogadishu News 1700 gmt 18 Nov 21, 22 November 2021

⁹³³ MSF, Somalia – General Reference Map, 11 October 2022, [url](#); UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#)

same area as the city of Mogadishu,⁹³⁴ which constitutes the capital of both the Benadir region⁹³⁵ and the Republic of Somalia.⁹³⁶ Mogadishu consists of 17 districts: Abdiaziz, Bondhere, Daynile, Hamar-Jajab, Hamar-Weyne, Hodan, Howl-Wadag, Huriwa (Heliwa), Kaxda, Karan, Shangani, Shibis, Yaqshid, Waberi, Wadajir (Medina), Warta Nabada⁹³⁷ (previously Whardiigleey),⁹³⁸ and Dharkenley.⁹³⁹ As well as being the seat of the Somali federal government, Mogadishu is the country's primary economic hub, with a large private sector and vibrant business activity around its seaport.⁹⁴⁰

While Mogadishu is inhabited by individuals from all Somali clans⁹⁴¹ as well as minorities,⁹⁴² it is dominated by the Hawiye clan family. The majority of its districts are closely identified with specific Hawiye clans.⁹⁴³ Among Hawiye groups, the Abgaal and Habar Gidir hold a particularly powerful position in the city.⁹⁴⁴ The dominance of the Hawiye is reflected by the fact that as of 2021, as many as 15 of the 17 district commissioners were Hawiye.⁹⁴⁵ While other groups are able to reside and conduct business in these districts, the dominant clans receive most of the benefits accrued from controlling the district, including local tax revenue, contracts, and jobs.⁹⁴⁶

Old city neighbourhoods like Wadajir (Medina),⁹⁴⁷ Hamar-Weyne, Hamar-Jajab, Shibis, Shingan, and Bondhere are known for their comparatively cosmopolitan outlook⁹⁴⁸ and are also home to 'marginalised groups'.⁹⁴⁹ The minority Reer Hamar (Benadiri) reside in Hamar-Weyne and Shangani,⁹⁵⁰ while Bondhere is mainly inhabited by Bantus.⁹⁵¹ The Yibr (sab) live

⁹³⁴ Somalia, Benadir Regional Administration and Mogadishu Municipality, n.d., [url](#); World Bank, Somalia Urbanization Review: Fostering Cities as Anchors of Development, January 2021, [url](#), p. 91

⁹³⁵ Global Shelter Cluster, Banadir, n.d., [url](#)

⁹³⁶ Somalia, Benadir Regional Administration and Mogadishu Municipality, n.d., [url](#)

⁹³⁷ Somalia, Benadir Regional Administration and Mogadishu Municipality, n.d., [url](#); Global Shelter Cluster, Banadir, n.d., [url](#)

⁹³⁸ Horn Daily, Breaking News: Dozens wounded and at least 5 killed in mass shooting in Mogadishu, 19 July 2020, [url](#)

⁹³⁹ Global Shelter Cluster, Banadir, n.d., [url](#)

⁹⁴⁰ SDP and SPA, Policy options for resolving the status of Mogadishu, 14 September 2022, [url](#), p. 2

⁹⁴¹ Finland, Finnish Immigration Service's Country Information Service, Somalia: Fact-Finding Mission to Mogadishu in March 2020, Security situation and humanitarian conditions in Mogadishu [source: oral interview with UNHCR 3.3.2020], 7 August 2020, [url](#), p. 39

⁹⁴² ACCORD, Clans in Somalia, December 2009, [url](#), p. 17

⁹⁴³ Menkhaus, K. and Adawe, I., Looma Dhamma: Political Inclusivity in the Somali Urban Context, 2018, p. 38

⁹⁴⁴ Finland, Finnish Immigration Service's Country Information Service, Somalia: Fact-Finding Mission to Mogadishu in March 2020, Security situation and humanitarian conditions in Mogadishu [source: oral interview with UNHCR 3.3.2020], 7 August 2020, [url](#), p. 39

⁹⁴⁵ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 87

⁹⁴⁶ World Bank, Somalia Urbanization Review: Fostering Cities as Anchors of Development, January 2021, [url](#), p. 90

⁹⁴⁷ Menkhaus, K. and Adawe, I., Looma Dhamma: Political Inclusivity in the Somali Urban Context, 2018, p. 38

⁹⁴⁸ Finland, Finnish Immigration Service's Country Information Service, Somalia: Fact-Finding Mission to Mogadishu in March 2020, Security situation and humanitarian conditions in Mogadishu [source: oral interview with an international organisation 2.3.2020], 7 August 2020, [url](#), p. 39

⁹⁴⁹ Finland, Finnish Immigration Service's Country Information Service, Somalia: Fact-Finding Mission to Mogadishu in March 2020, Security situation and humanitarian conditions in Mogadishu [source: oral interview with Somali NGO 5.3.2020], 7 August 2020, [url](#), p. 39

⁹⁵⁰ ACCORD, Clans in Somalia, December 2009, [url](#), p. 17

⁹⁵¹ Finland, Finnish Immigration Service's Country Information Service, Somalia: Fact-Finding Mission to Mogadishu in March 2020, Security situation and humanitarian conditions in Mogadishu [source: oral interview with Professor Yahya Amir 1.3.2020], 7 August 2020, [url](#), p. 39

along Mogadishu's coast.⁹⁵² But even in heterogenous neighbourhoods, less powerful groups must seek security arrangements with the locally dominant clan.⁹⁵³

Mogadishu's population has been growing steadily and the city's boundaries have expanded gradually over the years.⁹⁵⁴ A December 2022 IPC document listed the total number of inhabitants of Benadir, the country's most populous region, as 2 874 431 in 2022.⁹⁵⁵ UNOCHA estimated the region's population in 2021 at 2 683 312 (including 456 623 men, 474 092 women, 1 683 354 children, and 69 243 elderly people).⁹⁵⁶ The 2014 Population Estimation Survey conducted by UNFPA and Somali authorities⁹⁵⁷ estimated that the population⁹⁵⁸ of the Benadir region was 1 650 227, of whom 1 280 939 were categorised as urban residents, while there were no rural residents or nomads among the region's inhabitants.⁹⁵⁹

Following the war waged between AMISOM/TFG forces and Al-Shabaab and the latter's withdrawal from Mogadishu in 2011, the city experienced a large influx of displaced persons.⁹⁶⁰ UNOCHA estimated the region's IDP population at 904 000 in 2021.⁹⁶¹ Most of the IDPs belong to groups that wield little local influence⁹⁶² (mainly Digil-Mirifle clan, but also Somali Bantu, from rural parts of southern Somalia).⁹⁶³ These displaced groups require local brokerage to be granted living space and protection from the more powerful landholding clans.⁹⁶⁴

2.3.2. Actors' presence and conflict dynamics

(a) Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence (along with other actors)

Mogadishu is controlled by the FGS.⁹⁶⁵ Forces present in the city include federal security forces, the Presidential Guard, police forces, security forces answering to the Benadir regional

⁹⁵² ACCORD, Clans in Somalia, December 2009, [url](#), p. 15

⁹⁵³ Menkhaus, K. and Adawe, I., Looma Dhama: Political Inclusivity in the Somali Urban Context, 2018, p. 38

⁹⁵⁴ Norway, Landinfo, Somalia: Sikkerhetssituasjonen i Mogadishu og al-Shabaabs innflytelse i byen [Security situation in Mogadishu and Al-Shabaab's influence in the city], 8 September 2022, [url](#), p. 8, footnote 19

⁹⁵⁵ IPC, Nearly 8.3 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes [Table], 13 December 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁹⁵⁶ UNOCHA, Somalia – 2021 Population Figures and Disaggregation, 7 December 2021, [url](#)

⁹⁵⁷ According to the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SDHS) of 2020, the 2014 Population Estimation Survey of Somalia 'is the most recent nationwide population estimation exercise undertaken in Somalia.' Somalia, NBS, The Somali Health and Demographic Survey 2020, 30 April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

⁹⁵⁸ As of 2022, the 2014 estimates remain the figures used in the latest official publications of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). See e.g., Somalia Data Portal, Population – Dashboards, [url](#)

⁹⁵⁹ UNFPA, Population Estimation Survey 2014, Somalia, October 2014, [url](#), p. 31

⁹⁶⁰ Bakonyi, J., The Political Economy of Displacement: Rent Seeking, Dispossession and Precarious Mobility in Somali Cities, 15 October 2020, [url](#), p. 13

⁹⁶¹ UNOCHA, Somalia – 2021 Population Figures and Disaggregation, 7 December 2021, [url](#)

⁹⁶² Bakonyi, J., The Political Economy of Displacement: Rent Seeking, Dispossession and Precarious Mobility in Somali Cities, 15 October 2020, [url](#), p. 14

⁹⁶³ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 88

⁹⁶⁴ Bakonyi, J., The Political Economy of Displacement: Rent Seeking, Dispossession and Precarious Mobility in Somali Cities, 15 October 2020, [url](#), p. 14

⁹⁶⁵ HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), p. 28; USDOS, International Religious Freedom Report 2021- Somalia, 2 June 2022, [url](#), p. 1



authorities, and numerous private security firms and clan protection forces.⁹⁶⁶ Mogadishu also hosts the ATMIS force headquarters⁹⁶⁷ and several of its contingents,⁹⁶⁸ including one of the country's six ATMIS sector headquarters. In October 2022, Joint Operations Centres (JOCs) were set up at both the force and sector headquarters to coordinate operations by ATMIS and the Somali security forces against Al-Shabaab.⁹⁶⁹

Meanwhile, clan militia and protection forces, sometimes formalised into SNA or police units, have been the primary source of protection for residents. These militias are almost exclusively composed of Hawiye, a factor that reinforces their local dominance.⁹⁷⁰

There is high security around the presidential palace⁹⁷¹ and Mogadishu's segregated airport zone ('Halane'), which amongst others hosts the UN compound,⁹⁷² many Western embassies,⁹⁷³ and a Somali Air Force hangar.⁹⁷⁴ The surrounding 'green zone', which houses further international organisations and government officials, as well as hotels frequented by foreigners, has a large number of checkpoints and is tightly patrolled by security forces.⁹⁷⁵ On the other hand, the presence of security forces has been weaker in areas on the city's periphery, which includes districts like Dharkenley, Wadajir, and Huriwa.⁹⁷⁶

Thus, Somali Public Agenda, a Mogadishu-based non-profit public policy and administration think tank,⁹⁷⁷ holds that Mogadishu's security policy is focused on the needs of the city's 'core and semi-periphery areas' and their new security threats (IEDs and suicide attacks), while security issues specific to districts on the city's outskirts (e.g., armed robbery, illegal roadblocks, gang-related violence) are neglected.⁹⁷⁸

Al-Shabaab, on the other hand, does not directly control any areas in Mogadishu,⁹⁷⁹ where it has not had an overt presence⁹⁸⁰ in over a decade.⁹⁸¹ Sources consulted by Landinfo noted that the group had limited members, supporters and resources in the city.⁹⁸² However, acting

⁹⁶⁶ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 89

⁹⁶⁷ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 89; DefenceWeb, ATMIS sets up JOCs, 10 October 2022, [url](#)

⁹⁶⁸ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 89

⁹⁶⁹ UNSOS, UNSOS supports the setting up of ATMIS Joint Operation Centres, 9 October 2022, [url](#)

⁹⁷⁰ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 88

⁹⁷¹ SPA, Whose Security? A Tale of Three Cities in Mogadishu, 27 February 2022, [url](#)

⁹⁷² Bakonyi, J., communication, 7 July 2021; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 14

⁹⁷³ Bakonyi, J., communication, 7 July 2021

⁹⁷⁴ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 19

⁹⁷⁵ Bakonyi, J., communication, 7 July 2021

⁹⁷⁶ SPA, Whose Security? A Tale of Three Cities in Mogadishu, 27 February 2022, [url](#)

⁹⁷⁷ SPA, Who We Are, n.d., [url](#)

⁹⁷⁸ SPA, Whose Security? A Tale of Three Cities in Mogadishu, 27 February 2022, [url](#)

⁹⁷⁹ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 89

⁹⁸⁰ Norway, Landinfo, Somalia: Rekruttering til al-Shabaab [Recruitment into Al-Shabaab], 17 October 2022, [url](#), p. 5; Norway, Landinfo, Somalia: Sikkerhetssituasjonen i Mogadishu og al-Shabaabs innflytelse i byen [Security situation in Mogadishu and Al-Shabaab's influence in the city], 8 September 2022, [url](#), p. 8

⁹⁸¹ Norway, Landinfo, Somalia: Sikkerhetssituasjonen i Mogadishu og al-Shabaabs innflytelse i byen [Security situation in Mogadishu and Al-Shabaab's influence in the city], 8 September 2022, [url](#), p. 8

⁹⁸² Norway, Landinfo, Somalia: Sikkerhetssituasjonen i Mogadishu og al-Shabaabs innflytelse i byen [Security situation in Mogadishu and Al-Shabaab's influence in the city], 8 September 2022, [url](#), p. 10



as a network⁹⁸³ with operatives hidden among the population,⁹⁸⁴ Al-Shabaab has maintained the capacity to carry out operations in Mogadishu,⁹⁸⁵ projecting its influence into the urban area⁹⁸⁶ through attacks⁹⁸⁷ and targeted assassinations.⁹⁸⁸

In the Mogadishu outskirts, particularly in Kahda and Daynile districts, Al-Shabaab has been using small groups of ‘regular’ fighters to carry out its attacks. Attacks in more central parts of Mogadishu, on the other hand, have been carried out by covert Al-Shabaab operatives. The number of these covert members and sympathisers is unknown.⁹⁸⁹ The group’s intelligence wing has reportedly infiltrated administrative and security institutions.⁹⁹⁰

Moreover, the group has been extracting ‘taxes’ from businesses⁹⁹¹ and individuals⁹⁹² in Mogadishu. Sources reported that individuals refusing to pay these taxes faced reprisal from Al-Shabaab.⁹⁹³ At the same time, Al-Shabaab’s overall freedom of manoeuvre was limited by the presence of government forces in all city districts and their various security operations,⁹⁹⁴ although the group was less restrained in the peripheral districts.⁹⁹⁵

Another non-state armed actor with some reported activity in Mogadishu is the Islamic State in Somalia group,⁹⁹⁶ although their influence in Somalia remained ‘largely limited to Bari Region’

⁹⁸³ Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021, As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 89

⁹⁸⁴ Norway, Landinfo, Somalia: Sikkerhetssituasjonen i Mogadishu og al-Shabaabs innflytelse i byen [Security situation in Mogadishu and Al-Shabaab’s influence in the city], 8 September 2022, [url](#), p. 9

⁹⁸⁵ UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 8

⁹⁸⁶ International Crisis Group, Considering Political Engagement with Al-Shabaab in Somalia, 21 June 2022, [url](#), p. 9

⁹⁸⁷ Norway, Landinfo, Somalia: Sikkerhetssituasjonen i Mogadishu og al-Shabaabs innflytelse i byen [Security situation in Mogadishu and Al-Shabaab’s influence in the city], 8 September 2022, [url](#), p. 8

⁹⁸⁸ LWJ, Shabaab celebrates its assassinations in Mogadishu, jihadist attacks in the West, 3 May 2022, [url](#)

⁹⁸⁹ Norway, Landinfo, Somalia: Sikkerhetssituasjonen i Mogadishu og al-Shabaabs innflytelse i byen [Security situation in Mogadishu and Al-Shabaab’s influence in the city], 8 September 2022, [url](#), pp. 8-9

⁹⁹⁰ International Crisis Group, Considering Political Engagement with Al-Shabaab in Somalia, 21 June 2022, [url](#), p. 9

⁹⁹¹ Norway, Landinfo, Somalia: Sikkerhetssituasjonen i Mogadishu og al-Shabaabs innflytelse i byen [Security situation in Mogadishu and Al-Shabaab’s influence in the city], 8 September 2022, [url](#), p. 10; UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 46

⁹⁹² UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 46

⁹⁹³ Norway, Landinfo, Somalia: Sikkerhetssituasjonen i Mogadishu og al-Shabaabs innflytelse i byen [Security situation in Mogadishu and Al-Shabaab’s influence in the city], 8 September 2022, [url](#), p. 11; UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, 10 October 2022, S/2022/754, [url](#), para. 47

⁹⁹⁴ Norway, Landinfo, Somalia: Sikkerhetssituasjonen i Mogadishu og al-Shabaabs innflytelse i byen [Security situation in Mogadishu and Al-Shabaab’s influence in the city], 8 September 2022, [url](#), p. 10

⁹⁹⁵ UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 16

⁹⁹⁶ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 22; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 26

in Puntland, according to the UN Secretary-General.⁹⁹⁷ The UN Panel of Experts have stated that the group's operations were limited to Puntland only.⁹⁹⁸

(b) Conflict dynamics

Sources noted that Benadir/Mogadishu is one of the focus areas of Al-Shabaab attacks,⁹⁹⁹ alongside the South West State.¹⁰⁰⁰ During the reference period, the group carried out attacks targeting members of the NISA,¹⁰⁰¹ the SNA¹⁰⁰² (including prospective army recruits),¹⁰⁰³ the Somali police,¹⁰⁰⁴ AMISOM/ATMIS,¹⁰⁰⁵ and Turkish forces.¹⁰⁰⁶ Al-Shabaab conducted several complex attacks against local government, security forces¹⁰⁰⁷ and hotels.¹⁰⁰⁸ It also launched mortar attacks on Halane camp (airport zone)¹⁰⁰⁹ and, in one instance, was able to infiltrate the airport zone to carry out an attack inside.¹⁰¹⁰ Moreover, some instances of bombings were reported in the vicinity of the presidential palace.¹⁰¹¹

⁹⁹⁷ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 22

⁹⁹⁸ UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 31

⁹⁹⁹ Sweden, Migrationsverket, Somalia Säkerhetssituationen 2021 - 2022 (version 2.0) [Somalia security situation 2021 - 2022 (version 2.0)], 18 May 2022, [url](#), p. 32

¹⁰⁰⁰ UNSOM, As impact of drought worsens, growing risk of famine in Somalia, March 2022, [url](#), p. 4

¹⁰⁰¹ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 16

¹⁰⁰² SG, Suicide bomber kills at least 15 army recruits in Somalia's capital, 6 November 2022, [url](#); Radio Al-Furqaan, Qarax Lagu Dilay Askar Katirsan DF Oo Ka Dhacay Duleedka Muqdisho. [An explosion killed a federal government soldier outside Mogadishu], 8 July 2022, [url](#); LWJ, Shabaab celebrates its assassinations in Mogadishu, jihadist attacks in the West, 3 May 2022, [url](#); SG, Blast on army convoy kills 6 in Somalia's capital, 25 April 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰³ Goobjoog, Suicide bomber blows, kills 15 at military recruits centre in Mogadishu, 25 September 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰⁴ SomaliMemo, Ciidamo ku sugnaa Dekadda Muqdisho oo la weeraray iyo warar kale. [Troops in Mogadishu port were attacked and other news], 18 October 2022, [url](#); Goobjoog, One killed, two injured following shoot-out between security forces and Al-Shabaab militants, 6 September 2022, [url](#); SomaliMemo, Qaraxyo iyo dilal ka dhacay degmooyin katirsan magaalada Muqdisho. [Explosions and killings in the districts of Mogadishu.], 19 May 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰⁵ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 20; SomaliMemo, Saldhigga ciidamada AMISOM ee Xerada Maslax oo weerar lakulmayiyo sarkaal lagu dilay Howlwadaag. [The AMISOM military base in Maslach Camp was attacked and an officer was killed in the operation], 20 April 2022, [url](#); Halbeeg, Eight killed in Mogadishu bombing, 25 November 2021, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰⁶ Radio Al-Furqaan, Al-Shabaab Oo Madaafiic Ku Weeraray Xerada Turkisom Ee Magaalada Muqdisho. [Al-Shabaab attacked Turkisom Camp in Mogadishu with artillery.], 28 July 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰⁷ UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 16

¹⁰⁰⁸ Hiiraan Online, Security forces end siege at hotel near Villa Somalia, 28 November 2022, [url](#); UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 18

¹⁰⁰⁹ UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 20; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 19

¹⁰¹⁰ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 14

¹⁰¹¹ Radio Dalsan, Explosion targets Mogadishu court official a day after calling out for war on al-Shabab on Facebook, 27 September 2022, [url](#); BBC News, Somalia: Seven killed in suicide attack near presidential palace, 25 September 2021, [url](#)

Some attacks by Al-Shabaab were believed to have been aimed at disrupting electoral proceedings,¹⁰¹² while others targeted district officials,¹⁰¹³ media representatives, and foreign humanitarian contractors.¹⁰¹⁴ Several attacks resulted in deaths of civilian bystanders,¹⁰¹⁵ some of these casualties arising from battles between security forces and Al-Shabaab following an attack.¹⁰¹⁶

Apart from two coordinated attacks on hotels,¹⁰¹⁷ a number of attacks claimed by Al-Shabaab targeted tea shops¹⁰¹⁸ and restaurants¹⁰¹⁹ that were frequented by civilians and government/security officials.¹⁰²⁰ Some attacks, including an attack inside an IDP camp,¹⁰²¹ a mortar attack on a residential area,¹⁰²² and assassinations of traditional elders,¹⁰²³ businessmen¹⁰²⁴ and other civilian figures,¹⁰²⁵ went unclaimed.

¹⁰¹² UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 20

¹⁰¹³ SomaliMemo, Ciidamo ku sugnaa Dekadda Muqdisho oo la weeraray iyo warar kale. [Troops in Mogadishu port were attacked and other news], 18 October 2022, [url](#); Goobjoog, Yaqshid district official killed in explosion, 30 August 2022, [url](#); SomaliMemo, Dilal Qorsheysan oo ka Kala Dhacay Muqdisho iyo Afgooye [FAAHFAAHIN] [Planned murders in Mogadishu and Afgoye [DETAILS]], 23 May 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰¹⁴ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 20

¹⁰¹⁵ Goobjoog, One killed, two injured following shoot-out between security forces and Al-Shabaab militants, 6 September 2022, [url](#); UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 15; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 20, 26

¹⁰¹⁶ Goobjoog, One killed, two injured following shoot-out between security forces and Al-Shabaab militants, 6 September 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰¹⁷ Hiiraan Online, Al Shabaab attack hotel popular with government officials, 27 November 2022, [url](#); UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 18

¹⁰¹⁸ VOA, Suicide Bombing Kills 4 in Somali Capital, 18 January 2022, [url](#); SMN, Al-Shabaab says 11 killed in Mogadishu suicide attack, 14 September 2021, [url](#)

¹⁰¹⁹ BBC News, Somalia: At least six killed in Mogadishu attack near beach, 22 April 2022, [url](#); SMN, At least three killed in Mogadishu explosions, 12 October 2021, [url](#)

¹⁰²⁰ BBC News, Somalia: At least six killed in Mogadishu attack near beach, 22 April 2022, [url](#); SMN, At least three killed in Mogadishu explosions, 12 October 2021, [url](#); SMN, Al-Shabaab says 11 killed in Mogadishu suicide attack, 14 September 2021, [url](#)

¹⁰²¹ SMN, Six killed in a blast at IDP camp in Mogadishu, 11 June 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰²² SMN, At least 20 hurt in Mogadishu mortar shelling, 20 August 2022, [url](#); Goobjoog, Mother, 3 children die in mortar explosion in Hamar Jajab district, Mogadishu, 20 August 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰²³ Halbeeg, Gunmen kill prominent elder in Mogadishu, 21 September 2022, [url](#); Keydmedia, A prominent elder shot dead in Somalia after hotel attack, 24 August 2022, [url](#); Goobjoog, Prominent businessman killed in Mogadishu barely a day after another is killed, 16 July 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰²⁴ Radio Risaala, Dilal ka dhacay Magaalada Muqdisho iyo Faah faahino laga helayo [Murders in Mogadishu and details to be found], 26 September 2022, [url](#); Keydmedia, Ganacsade lagu dilay Muqdisho [A businessman was killed in Mogadishu], 15 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁰²⁵ Hiiraan Online, Gunmen shoot dead former parliamentary candidate in Mogadishu, 22 November 2022, [url](#); Puntland Post, Dabley hubaysan oo imaam masjid ku dilay Muqdisho [Armed gunman killed imam in mosque in Muqdisho], 12 November 2022, [url](#); Radio Risaala, Dilal ka dhacay Magaalada Muqdisho iyo Faah faahino laga helayo [Murders in Mogadishu and details to be found], 26 September 2022, [url](#); Goobjoog, Horseed University lecturer shot dead by unknown assailants, 5 July 2022, [url](#)

Furthermore, there were numerous cases of armed robbery and gang-related violence,¹⁰²⁶ while suspected land disputes between families also resulted in deaths.¹⁰²⁷ There were also reports of attacks against businesses that were possibly linked to their owners' failure to pay money to Al-Shabaab.¹⁰²⁸ At the same time, there were several reports of SNA soldiers and police officers opening fire at civilians on streets, causing several deaths.¹⁰²⁹

2.3.3. Recent security incidents and trends

(a) Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), civilian casualties

In the reference period, ACLED reported 898 security incidents in Benadir, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violent acts against civilians, causing 901 fatalities ([Figure 27](#)).¹⁰³⁰

¹⁰²⁶ SPA, Whose Security? A Tale of Three Cities in Mogadishu, 27 February 2022, [url](#); Radio Dalsan, Suspect arrested for murder of Mogadishu high school student, 18 August 2022, [url](#); Halbeeg, Dozens of teenage gang members arrested in Mogadishu operations, 18 April 2022, [url](#); Goobjoog, Gunmen kill young man in Mogadishu over mobile phone, 21 March 2022, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Dhalinyaro badan oo siyaabo kala duwan loogu dilay gudaha magaalada Muqdisho [Many young people were killed in various ways in Mogadishu], 12 January 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰²⁷ Goobjoog, Two members of one family killed in Dharkenley district by unknown gunmen, 25 June 2022, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Two dead as soldiers battle each other in Mogadishu 5 May 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰²⁸ Mogadishu Times, Faahfaahino kasoo baxaya qarax ka dhacay goob Caafimaad oo ku taala duleedka magaalada Muqdisho [Details of an explosion that took place in a medical center on the outskirts of Mogadishu], 21 June 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰²⁹ UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Somalia: Report of the Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in Somalia, A/HRC/51/65, 19 August 2022, [url](#), para. 54; Radio Risaala, Askari katirsan Ciidanka dowladda oo Muqdisho ku dilay wiil Mooto Bajaajle ahaa [A government army soldier killed a motorcycle boy in Mogadishu], 13 June 2022, [url](#); FTL, Soldier Kills a Nine-Month Pregnant Mother in Mogadishu, 29 May 2022, [url](#); Goobjoog, Auto rickshaw operator shot dead by government soldier, 18 April 2022, [url](#) SPA, Whose Security? A Tale of Three Cities in Mogadishu, 27 February 2022, [url](#); Goobjoog, Final year medical student shot by a policeman dies in Mogadishu, 22 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁰³⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

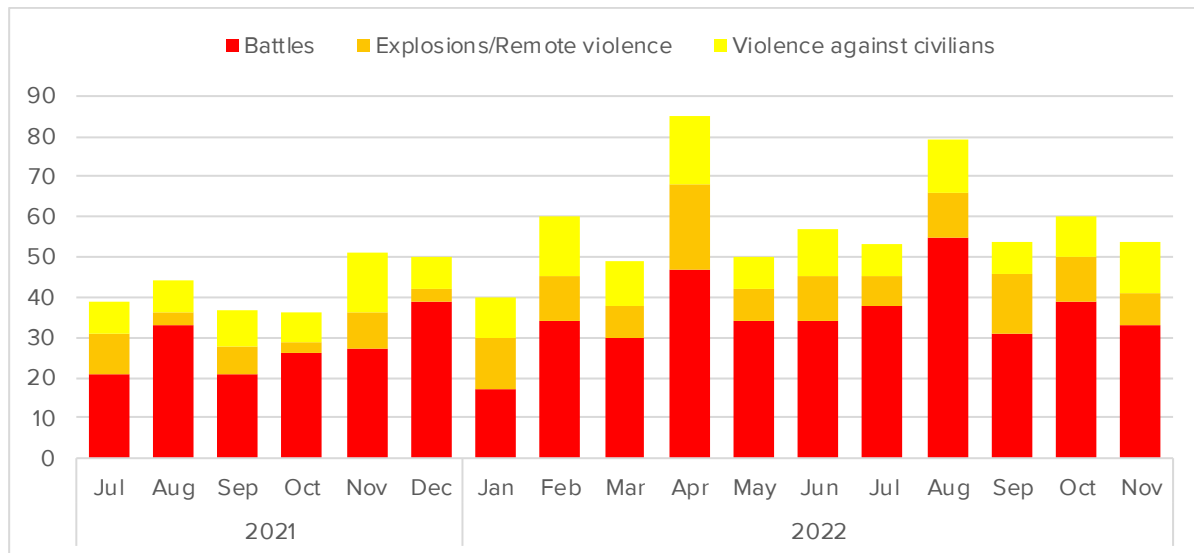


Figure 27. Benadir – Evolution of security incidents coded battles, explosion/remote violence, and violence against civilians from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data. ¹⁰³¹

For reference period, ACLED reported Al-Shabaab being involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)¹⁰³² in 756 security incidents in the Benadir administrative region (516 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 135 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 105 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in a total of 769 fatalities. Somali security forces (including Somali military forces, the National Intelligence Security Agency (NISA), and police forces) were reportedly involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 716 security incidents (552 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 98 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 66 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in 561 fatalities.¹⁰³³ Islamic State group was reportedly involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 19 security incidents (6 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 11 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 2 as ‘violence against civilians’) causing 11 fatalities. Unidentified armed groups and clan militias were involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 31 security incidents (11 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 13 coded as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 7 as ‘violence against civilians’) causing 17 fatalities.

While no overall dataset could be found on the number of conflict-related civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) in the region, [Table 8](#) shows the numbers of incidents and estimated fatalities (without distinction as to civilian and non-civilian) in Benadir region that were recorded by ACLED between July 2021 and end of November 2022, by type of incident:

¹⁰³¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰³² For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁰³³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

Benadir	Number of incidents	Number of estimated fatalities
Battles	559	397
Explosions/Remote violence	159	336
Violence against civilians	180	168
Total	898	901

Table 8. Benadir – number of security incidents and fatalities by type of incident for the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁰³⁴

(b) Illustrative security incidents with (high) impact on civilians¹⁰³⁵

From 27 to 28 November 2022, Al-Shabaab fighters armed with explosives and firearms attacked and besieged the Villa Rays hotel, a venue frequented by MPs and senior government officials. Eight civilians and one army member were killed while at least one minister was injured.¹⁰³⁶

On 29 October 2022, Al-Shabaab claimed a twin car bombing at a busy market intersection¹⁰³⁷ that killed at least 121 people¹⁰³⁸ and injured another 333.¹⁰³⁹ The attack targeted the Ministry of Education building.¹⁰⁴⁰

On 19 August 2022, Al-Shabaab stormed and took control of the Hayat Hotel. According to the Somali government. The ensuing 30-hour siege¹⁰⁴¹ left at least 22 civilians dead and 30 injured.¹⁰⁴²

On 22 April 2022, Al-Shabaab claimed an attack on a seaside restaurant frequented by government and security officials. Six people were killed in the attack.¹⁰⁴³

On 14 April 2022, a government soldier shot dead an auto rickshaw operator on the street. The motive behind the killing was unclear.¹⁰⁴⁴

¹⁰³⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰³⁵ The following is a selection of incidents and does not claim to be representative in any sense. Moreover, please note that security incidents related to clan conflicts do not always receive local media attention and hence might go under-reported in Somalia. Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#)

¹⁰³⁶ Hiiraan Online, Security forces end siege at hotel near Villa Somalia, 28 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰³⁷ Al, Somalia: Al-Shabaab must urgently stop carrying out attacks against civilians, 31 October 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰³⁸ HRW, Somalia Reeling from Devastating Attack on Education Ministry, 1 November 2022, [url](#); OHCHR, Somalia: Türk decries steep rise in civilian casualties amid surge in Al-Shabaab attacks, 14 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰³⁹ OHCHR, Somalia: Türk decries steep rise in civilian casualties amid surge in Al-Shabaab attacks, 14 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴⁰ VOA, At Least 100 Killed in Mogadishu Bombing, President Says, 30 October 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴¹ BBC News, Somalia hotel siege: More than 20 die in al-Shabab attack, 21 August 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴² OHCHR, Somalia: Türk decries steep rise in civilian casualties amid surge in Al-Shabaab attacks, 14 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴³ BBC News, Somalia: At least six killed in Mogadishu attack near beach, 22 April 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴⁴ Goobjoog, Auto rickshaw operator shot dead by government soldier, 18 April 2022, [url](#)

On 13 September 2021, Al-Shabaab claimed a suicide bombing in a teashop in Wadajir district, killing at least 11 people, including civilians and SNA members. At least 10 people were injured.¹⁰⁴⁵

On 11 August 2021, Al-Shabaab claimed an attack on a police station in Hodan district that left three police officers injured.¹⁰⁴⁶

(c) Conflict-related displacement

Between July 2021 and November 2022, 665 individuals were newly displaced from Benadir due to conflict or insecurity, according to the UNHCR PRMN¹⁰⁴⁷. Of these, some 56 % (or 374 individuals) were displaced within the region, while the remaining 44 % (291 individuals) were all displaced to Bari. In the same period, conflict and insecurity resulted in 112 031 individuals arriving in Benadir from regions across South-Central Somalia, including Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Mudug, Hiiraan, Bakool, Bay, Galgaduud, Middle Jubba and Lower Jubba.¹⁰⁴⁸

(d) Other impacts on civilian life (e.g. infrastructure damage, evictions)

UNOCHA documented four humanitarian access incidents¹⁰⁴⁹ in Benadir region between July and September 2021¹⁰⁵⁰ and five such incidents between January and March 2022.¹⁰⁵¹ No data regarding this type of incident was available for the periods between October and December 2021 and between April and October 2022.

Data accessed through the NRC Eviction Information Portal¹⁰⁵² listed 157 096 individuals as having been forcibly evicted¹⁰⁵³ in the Benadir region during the period from July 2021 to November 2022.¹⁰⁵⁴ Between January and September 2022, the Benadir region accounted for 80 % of all forced evictions recorded in the country by UNHCR and the Somalia Protection Cluster.¹⁰⁵⁵

A joint IDP site verification exercise by the Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) in October 2022 found that of the 2 410 verified IDP sites in Mogadishu's Daynile and

¹⁰⁴⁵ SMN, Al-Shabaab says 11 killed in Mogadishu suicide attack, 14 September 2021, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴⁶ BBC Monitoring Africa, Al-Shabab claims attacks on police stations in Somali capital; Text of report by pro-Al-Shabab news website Somali Memo on 12 August, 12 August 2021

¹⁰⁴⁷ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁰⁴⁸ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴⁹ Such incidents include the following types: 'ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance', 'ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance' and 'armed hostilities preventing access'. UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), p. 1

¹⁰⁵⁰ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), p. 1

¹⁰⁵¹ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 1 (January - March 2022), 17 July 2022, [url](#), p. 1

¹⁰⁵² For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁰⁵³ NRC defines 'forced evictions' as the 'removal against their will of people from their homes and/or land which they occupy, without any form of legal or other protection'. NRC, An Unnecessary Burden: Forced Evictions and Covid-19, 1 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1

¹⁰⁵⁴ NRC, Eviction Information Portal, Data Sets, Somalia – July 2021-November 2022, as of 9 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁵⁵ UNHCR and Protection Cluster Somalia, Somalia - Protection Analysis Update September 2022, 30 September 2022, [url](#), p. 5

Kaxda districts, 7 % were classified as having extreme and 15 % as having high risk of eviction.¹⁰⁵⁶ Detailed site assessments (DSA) conducted by REACH and the CCCM Cluster in November and December 2021 indicated that the ‘proportion of assessed sites where KIs [key informants] reported perceiving a very high risk of forced eviction’ was 5 % in Dharkenley district¹⁰⁵⁷ and 29 % in Daynile district.¹⁰⁵⁸

2.3.4. Mogadishu – Checkpoints and road security

In the peripheral districts of Mogadishu, there were illegal roadblocks manned by members of armed groups wearing military uniforms who extorted money from traffic users, businesses, and residential places. These roadblocks present a ‘recurrent security challenge’, according to a report by the Mogadishu-based think tank Somali Public Agenda. In what the source calls the semi-periphery zone, comprising the districts surrounding Maka Al-Mukarama Street, the authorities, in order to prevent attacks, only allowed ‘highways with several security checkpoints’ to remain open. The remaining roads, ‘often purposefully blocked with stones’, suffer from traffic congestion, and security forces ‘sometimes use live ammunition to open the jammed streets’, causing casualties.¹⁰⁵⁹

In August 2022, a road leading to Mogadishu’s port was blocked by truck drivers protesting the killing of a fellow truck driver by police.¹⁰⁶⁰ Moreover, the reference period saw a number of roadside bombings,¹⁰⁶¹ including at security checkpoints along roads leading to the airport¹⁰⁶² and near the presidential palace.¹⁰⁶³ Amongst others, such IED attacks targeted convoys carrying senior Somali security personnel¹⁰⁶⁴ and AMISOM troops.¹⁰⁶⁵

2.4. Hirshabelle

Hirshabelle was established as a Federal Member State (FMS) in 2016¹⁰⁶⁶ under article 49 of the Federal Government’s provisional constitution, following the merger of the two constituent regions Hiraan and Middle Shabelle.¹⁰⁶⁷ The capital city of Hirshabelle State is Jowhar.¹⁰⁶⁸

¹⁰⁵⁶ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Mogadishu Dayniile and Khada Verified IDP Sites – October 2022, 1 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁵⁷ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Dharkenley district, March 2022, [url](#), p. 4

¹⁰⁵⁸ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Daynile district, March 2022, [url](#), p. 4

¹⁰⁵⁹ SPA, Whose Security? A Tale of Three Cities in Mogadishu, 27 February 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶⁰ FTL, Mogadishu Truck Drivers Block Road to Protest Colleague’s Killing by Police, 28 August 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶¹ Keydmedia, Car bomb strikes Somalia capital, 12 October 2022, [url](#); SG, Blast on convoy of top army commander kills 9 soldiers near Somalia’s capital, 30 April 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶² Halbeeg, Three killed and seven wounded in Mogadishu bomb blast, 11 May 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶³ Halbeeg, Update: Mogadishu suicide blast death toll rises to seven, 25 September 2021, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶⁴ SG, Blast on convoy of top army commander kills 9 soldiers near Somalia’s capital, 30 April 2022, [url](#); SG, Blast on army convoy kills 6 in Somalia’s capital, 25 April 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶⁵ Halbeeg, Eight killed in Mogadishu bombing, 25 November 2021, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶⁶ UNSOM, Remarks by UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Somalia, James Swan, to the media in Jowhar, 28 January 2021, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶⁷ Somalia, Somalia NBS, Somali Health and Demographic Survey – Hirshabelle Report 2021, [url](#), p. 2

¹⁰⁶⁸ Global Shelter Cluster, Hirshabelle, n.d., [url](#)

2.4.1. Hiraan

(a) Background

Hiraan region shares internal borders with the following regions: Galgaduud to the north-east, Middle Shabelle to the south, Lower Shabelle to the south-west and Bakool to the west. It shares an international border with Ethiopia to the north. Hiraan consists of three districts: Beletweyne (at the border to Ethiopia), Bulo Burto and Jalalaqsi. The region's capital is Beletweyne.¹⁰⁶⁹ Hiraan is mainly inhabited by Hawiye clans, with the Hawadle sub-clan dominating the territory north-east of the Shabelle River, and the Jajele, Galjaal (or Gaaljeel) and Baadi Adde sub-clans dominating the territory south-west of the river. The Makane minority group (a Bantu/Jareer minority group)¹⁰⁷⁰ lives along the northern part of the Shabelle river.¹⁰⁷¹

A December 2022 IPC document listed the population of Hiraan as 420 060 in 2022.¹⁰⁷² UNOCHA estimated the population of Hiraan in 2021 at 427 124, including 71 944 men, 70 295 women, 271 431 children and 13 454 elderly people.¹⁰⁷³ The 2014 Population Estimation Survey conducted by UNFPA and Somali authorities¹⁰⁷⁴ estimated the population¹⁰⁷⁵ of the Hiraan region at 520 685, of whom 81 379 lived in urban areas, 135 537 in rural areas and 252 609 were nomads.¹⁰⁷⁶ For figures on IDPs, see subsection below on conflict-related displacement.

(b) Actors' presence and conflict dynamics

Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence (along with other actors)

According to the US-registered Somali news agency Caasimada, Hiiraan is one of Al-Shabaab's strongholds, where the group has established their own courts and bases for its fighters.¹⁰⁷⁷ As of December 2021, Al-Shabaab reportedly controlled large parts of the state's rural areas and main supply routes. State and federal officials as well as anyone refusing to submit to Al-Shabaab were able to travel to most of Hiraan's cities only by air, according to a report by the Heritage Institute.¹⁰⁷⁸ Control over these areas, however, has been in flux since the beginning of the government's military offensive in the summer of 2022 (see below). According to [Map 4. Somalia - Approximate Territorial Control](#), as of 30 November 2022, Al-

¹⁰⁶⁹ UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#); MSF, Somalia – General Reference Map, 11 October 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁷⁰ EASO, COI report - South and Central Somalia Country overview, August 2014, [url](#), p. 46

¹⁰⁷¹ EASO, COI report - South and Central Somalia Country overview [clan maps based on Lewis 1955, Abikar 1999], August 2014, [url](#), pp. 52-53

¹⁰⁷² IPC, Nearly 8.3 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes [Table], 13 December 2022, [url](#), p. 4

¹⁰⁷³ UNOCHA, Somalia – 2021 Population Figures and Disaggregation, 7 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁰⁷⁴ According to the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) of 2020, the 2014 Population Estimation Survey of Somalia 'is the most recent nationwide population estimation exercise undertaken in Somalia.' Somalia, NBS, The Somali Health and Demographic Survey 2020, 30 April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

¹⁰⁷⁵ As of 2022, the 2014 estimates remain the figures used in the latest official publications of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). See e.g., Somalia, Somalia Data Portal, Population – Dashboards, 1 March 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁷⁶ UNFPA, Population Estimation Survey 2014, Somalia, October 2014, [url](#), p. 31

¹⁰⁷⁷ Caasimada, Shabaab oo soo bandhigtay askar iyo saraakiil ciidan oo 'isku dhiibay' + Magacyada [Shabaab exposes soldiers and army officers who 'surrendered' + Names], 2 November 2021, [url](#)

¹⁰⁷⁸ HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), p. 28

Shabaab fully controls the western part of Bulo Burto district, bordering South West state, while control over other parts of the state was reported to be mixed or unclear. The town of Buqda was reportedly under mixed control of Al-Shabaab and ATMIS forces.¹⁰⁷⁹ Another map by Political Geography Now as of 30 June 2021 shows almost identical territories of mixed or unclear control or under control of Al-Shabaab in Hiraan region as the more recent map of October 2022. The town of Buqda, however, had reportedly been fully controlled by Al-Shabaab in June 2021.¹⁰⁸⁰

In September 2022, Somali government forces reportedly claimed to have retaken areas in Mahas, Bulo Burto and Mataban districts from Al-Shabaab, as well as having regained control from Al-Shabaab over the roads between the towns of Beletweyne, Mataban and Maas and fighting for control over the road between the towns of Beletweyne and Bulo Burto.¹⁰⁸¹ According to ATMIS, Hiraan region was under security responsibility of the Djibouti Armed Forces (DJAF), with Ethiopian National Defence Forces (ENDF) controlling some parts of the region.¹⁰⁸²

Keydmedia, a local online news organisation, reported in October 2022 on fighting between Al-Shabaab and government forces aiming to regain control over the area around Bulo Burto town, 'which has been under the Al-Shabaab blockade for the last 13 years' (10 years according to another article by the same media outlet¹⁰⁸³).¹⁰⁸⁴ Throughout the reference period, various media sources reported on clashes between Al-Shabaab fighters and national army forces (SNA) or AMISOM/ATMIS forces,¹⁰⁸⁵ including in the Omaad area¹⁰⁸⁶, in the Ferfer area along the border with Ethiopia¹⁰⁸⁷, and in areas between the towns of Beletweyne and Mataban, including Labi Embarad, Bacaha, Beergadiid, Xodale, Hajin Farayar and Lasban¹⁰⁸⁸. The SNA also carried out operations against Al-Shabaab jointly with a local clan militia (*Ma'awiisley*)¹⁰⁸⁹ (also referred to as *Macawiisley*, named after the sarong, a common piece of clothing)¹⁰⁹⁰, and supported by US airstrikes. The government reportedly claimed at the end of September 2022 that they had regained control over 40 settlements in Hiraan region within

¹⁰⁷⁹ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

¹⁰⁸⁰ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 June 2021, n.a., non-public source

¹⁰⁸¹ BBC News Somali, Macawiisleyda: Deegaannada ilaa hadda la kala qabsaday iyo kooxda Shabaab oo farriin soo dirtay [Ma'awiisley: The areas that have been occupied so far and the Al-Shabaab group has sent a message], 19 September 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁸² ATMIS, Military Component, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁰⁸³ Keydmedia, HirShabelle President visits district under Al-Shabaab blockade, 16 August 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁸⁴ Keydmedia, Somali forces encircle Al-Shabaab fighters in small town, 10 October 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁸⁵ SONNA, DANAB commandos forces liberate towns and villages in Middle shabelle and Hiran region, 12 September 2021, [url](#)

¹⁰⁸⁶ SomaliMemo, 9 askari oo ku dhintay qarax iyo iska hor'imaad ka dhacay deegaan katirsan Hiiraan. [9 soldiers died in an explosion and clashes in Hiran], 26 July 2021, [url](#)

¹⁰⁸⁷ Keydmedia, Faah faahin laga helayo dagaal ka dhacay deggaanka Feer-feer [Details of the fighting in Ferfer], 10 January 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁸⁸ Radio Risaala, Ciidamada Gorgor oo degaano kala wareegay Al-Shabaab [Gorgor forces take over villages from Al-Shabaab], 19 May 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁸⁹ Economist (The), Jihadism in the Horn: Rise of the clans, 5 November 2022

¹⁰⁹⁰ Shire, M.I., Protection or predation? Understanding the behavior of community-created self-defense militias during civil wars, 9 July 2021, [url](#), p. 4

three weeks, although VOA reported in October 2022 that none of them were large towns and that Al-Shabaab had since then regained control over some of these areas.¹⁰⁹¹

For more detailed information regarding various actors and their presence in Hiraan up until 30 June 2021, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

Conflict dynamics

In the reference period, conflict dynamics in Hiraan region included the ongoing confrontation between Al-Shabaab and anti-Al-Shabaab forces,¹⁰⁹² including *Ma'awiisley* local militia,¹⁰⁹³ and armed locals.¹⁰⁹⁴ The Critical Threats Project (CT) reported that the government had fought an offensive against Al-Shabaab since the summer of 2022, after local Hawadle sub-clan militias attacked a base of Al-Shabaab in June 2022, following the killing of one of their clan elders in May 2022. Al-Shabaab reportedly accused the elder of 'apostasy' for allegedly participating in the country's electoral process.¹⁰⁹⁵ Other election-related killings and attacks on government officials included suicide bombings and other attacks in Beletweyne in February¹⁰⁹⁶, March¹⁰⁹⁷, May¹⁰⁹⁸ and in October¹⁰⁹⁹ as well as a non-election related attack on the governor of Hiraan in Mataban in July¹¹⁰⁰ 2022.

The Canada-based news outlet Somali Dispatch (SD) reported in July 2022 on repeated incursions by Al-Shabaab into Ethiopian territory from Hiraan region.¹¹⁰¹

¹⁰⁹¹ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch Digest Somalia September 2022, n.d., [url](#); VOA, 'Ma'awiisley' Militias in Central Somalia Mobilizing Against al-Shabab, 4 October 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁹² SomaliMemo, 9 askari oo ku dhintay qarax iyo iska hor'imaad ka dhacay deegaan katirsan Hiiraan. [9 soldiers died in an explosion and clashes in Hiran], 26 July 2021, [url](#); SONNA, DANAB commandos forces liberate towns and villages in Middle shabelle and Hiran region, 12 September 2021, [url](#); Radio Dalsan, Ciidanka Dowladda Oo Howlgal Ka Sameeyay Qeybo Kamid Ah Gobolka Hiiraan [Government Forces Conduct Operation In Parts Of Hiran Region], 5 December 2021, [url](#); SD, Danab forces kill Al Shabab leader and 60 fighters in Hiiraan, 22 February 2022, [url](#); FTL, SNA Commandos Destroy Al-Shabaab Hideouts in Hiiraan Region, 19 May 2022, [url](#); SMN, The army chief calls on troops to continue offensive on Al-Shabaab, 24 August 2022, [url](#); Strategic Intelligence News, SNA Supported by ATMIS Forces, Conduct Joint Ops against Shabaab Mujahideen in Hiran, Liberate Aboorey Village, 27 September 2022, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Somali army kills 20 al Shabab militants in Hiiraan region, 24 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁹³ Radio Risaala, DFS oo sheegtay in howlgal lagu dilay Xubno katirsan Al-Shabaab [DFS says Al-Shabaab members were killed in operation], 31 January 2022, [url](#); Radio Hiiraanweyn, Ciidamo Hubeeysan oo Goordhow weeraray Saldhig Al-shabaab ay ku lahaayeen Deegaanka qabno ee gobalka Hiiraan [Armed forces attacked an Al-Shabaab base in The Qabno area of Hiran region], 13 July 2022, [url](#); Garowe Online, Somalia: Elder killed in Al-Shabaab ambush as war steps up, 29 September 2022, [url](#); BBC News Somali, Dagaal culus oo mar kale ka qarxay gobolka Hiiraan [Heavy fighting breaks out again in Hiran region], 12 October 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁹⁴ Strategic Intelligence News, Dozens of Al-Shabaab Militants Killed & Strategic Town of Booco, Hiran in Central Somalia Liberated in Military Ops, 21 September 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁹⁵ Critical Threats Project at the American Enterprise Institute, Africa File: Clan Uprising Bolsters anti-al Shabaab Offensive in Central Somalia, 15 September 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁹⁶ VOA, Two Pre-Election Attacks in Somalia Kill at Least 15, Injure Dozens, 19 February 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁹⁷ VOA, Al-Shabab Increases Attacks as Elections Drag in Somalia, 25 March 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁹⁸ Hiiraan Online, Former electoral delegate shot dead in Beledweyne, 15 May 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁹⁹ Nova Agency, Somalia: two regional ministers killed in an attack in the state of Hiraan, 3 October 2022, [url](#);

Halbeeg, Somali leaders direct SNA to intensify war on al-Shabaab, 4 October 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁰⁰ Radio Al-Furqan, Sawirro: Gudoomiyaha Hiiraan Oo Mar Kale La Kulmay Dhabbagal Khasaare Dhaliyay. [Photos: The governor of Hiraan who once again faced a loss], 3 July 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁰¹ SD, Hiraan Governor: Hundreds of Al-Shabaab fighters crossed into Ethiopian, again, 24 July 2022, [url](#)



Ahlu Sunna Wal-Jama'a (ASWJ) fighters, a moderate Islamist group opposed to Al-Shabaab, peacefully took control of Mataban and the town of Gurieel in Galgaduud region in October 2021,¹¹⁰² but withdrew a few days later after failed negotiations between the group's leadership and Galmudug authorities.¹¹⁰³ In December 2021, local media reported that Al-Shabaab fighters took control of Mataban town,¹¹⁰⁴ but were ousted by government forces within a day. In April 2022, Mataban district reportedly fell under Al-Shabaab's control,¹¹⁰⁵ however, fighting for control over the area reportedly continued throughout spring 2022.¹¹⁰⁶ In August 2022, government forces reportedly gained control over ten villages in the area between Mataban and Mahas.¹¹⁰⁷

The Heritage Institute in a report of 2021 described the ongoing conflict over Hiraan's status as part of Hirshabelle state and power-sharing disagreements between Hawadle and Abgal sub-clans of the Hawiye clan (with the Hawadle dominant in Hiraan and the Abgal dominant in Middle Shabelle¹¹⁰⁸) after the election of Ali Gudlawe – a member of the Abgal sub-clan¹¹⁰⁹ – as Hirshabelle's state president in November 2020. The election led to protests by Hawadle sub-clan members under former SNA General¹¹¹⁰ Abukar Haji Warsame Huud, who briefly occupied local government offices in Beledweyne in August 2021,¹¹¹¹ until clan elders intervened to de-escalate the situation.¹¹¹² The conflict culminated in February 2022 with the arrival of federal special forces in Beletweyne in the context of Mr. Gudlawe's first visit to the region's capital city since his election in November 2020.¹¹¹³ Previously, forces of the Hiraan Revolutionary Council – co-founded by General Huud –, who opposed the visit, had reportedly gathered in the outskirts of Beletweyne.¹¹¹⁴ In a meeting on 8 February 2022 between Hawadle leaders and the president, an agreement was reportedly reached on the clan's concerns¹¹¹⁵ and pending House of the People elections which started a few days later on 20 February.¹¹¹⁶

The UN reported in August 2021 on processes aimed at resolving inter-clan conflicts between Jejele and Makane clans over land and between Dir and Hawadle clans over the construction

¹¹⁰² Keydmedia, ASWJ peacefully seizes key town in central Somalia, 1 October 2021, [url](#); Reuters, Somali militia, former government ally, captures two towns from federal forces, 2 October 2021, [url](#)

¹¹⁰³ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/944, 11 November 2021, [url](#), para. 10

¹¹⁰⁴ Keydmedia, Al-Shabaab oo la wareegtay degmada Matabaan [Al-Shabaab captures Mataban district], 13 December 2021, [url](#)

¹¹⁰⁵ Hiiraan Online, Al-Shabaab take control of Mataban district in Hiiraan region, 18 April 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁰⁶ Goobjoog, Heavy fighting ongoing in Mataban as troops launch assault on Al-Shabaab, 27 June 2022, [url](#); SMN, Somali troops repel Al-Shabaab attack, 18 May 2022, [url](#); AA, Somali military kills at least 12 al-Shabaab terrorists, 13 June 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁰⁷ Horseed Media, SOMALIA: Government forces retake villages in Hiiraan region, 13 August 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁰⁸ HIPS, State of Somalia 2020 Report, February 2021, [url](#), p. 16

¹¹⁰⁹ USDOS, 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Somalia, 12 April 2022, [url](#), p. 29

¹¹¹⁰ SD, Beledweyne on brink to fall to rebel forces, 3 January 2022, [url](#)

¹¹¹¹ HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), pp. 26-27; Keydmedia, Heavy fighting erupts in central Somalia, 4 July 2021, [url](#); UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/723, 10 August 2021, [url](#), para. 8

¹¹¹² USDOS, 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Somalia, 12 April 2022, [url](#), p. 29

¹¹¹³ Hiiraan Online, General Huud, strongly condemns deployment of Harmacad and Gorgor forces in Beledweyne, 26 January 2022, [url](#)

¹¹¹⁴ Hiiraan Online, Hir-Shabelle President Ali Gudlawe to make first visit to Beletweyne amid heightened tensions, 6 February 2022, [url](#)

¹¹¹⁵ SD, President of HirShabelle Addresses Beledweyne Community leaders, 8 February 2022, [url](#)

¹¹¹⁶ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/392, 13 May 2022, [url](#), para. 4



of a bridge in the community.¹¹¹⁷ Clan expert Joakim Gundel pointed in July 2021 at a different aspect of potential inter-clan disputes, namely between pastoral clans such as Hawadle, Gaaljeel, Jajele and Baadi Adde on the one side and Bantu agriculturalist groups such as the Makane on the other side.¹¹¹⁸ For further information on potential inter-clan conflicts, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

(c) Recent security incidents and trends

Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), civilian casualties

In the reference period, ACLED reported 288 security incidents in Hiraan region, including battles, explosions, or other forms of remote violence and violent acts against civilians, causing 1 357 fatalities ([Figure 28](#)).¹¹¹⁹

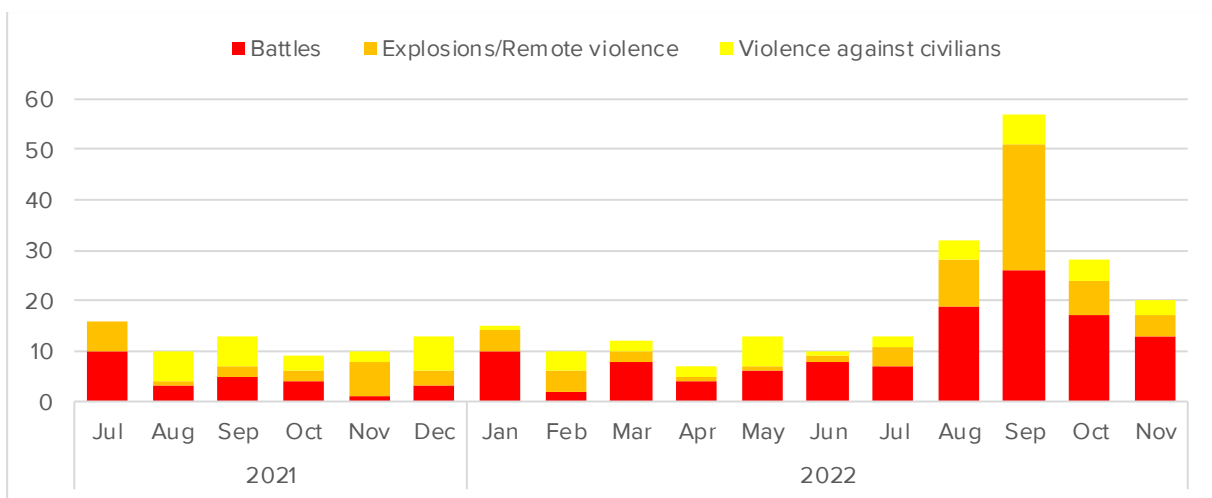


Figure 28. Hiraan – Evolution of security incidents coded battles, explosion/remote violence and violence against civilians from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹¹²⁰

At the district level, Beletweyne recorded the most security incidents (188 incidents), followed by Bulo Burto district (84 incidents) and Jalalaqsi district (16 incidents) between July 2021 and November 2022 ([Figure 29](#)).¹¹²¹

¹¹¹⁷ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/723, 10 August 2021, [url](#), para. 27

¹¹¹⁸ Gundel, J., interview 7 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 99

¹¹¹⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹¹²⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹¹²¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

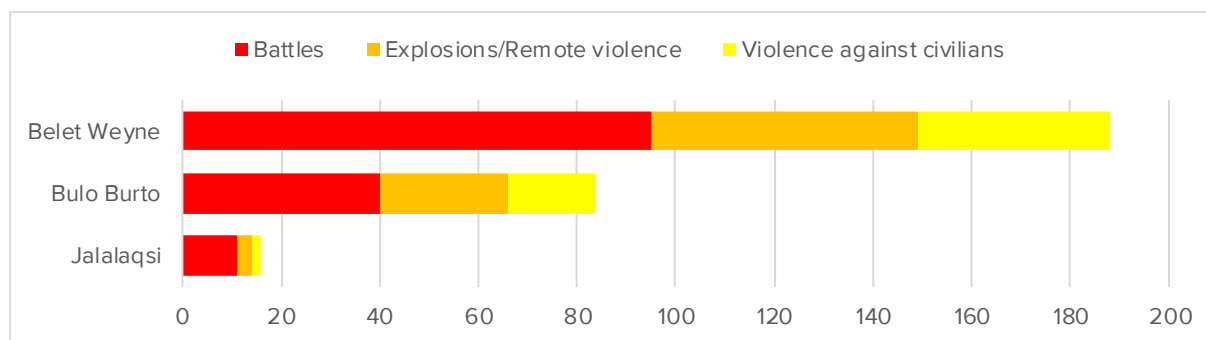


Figure 29. Hiraan – Breakdown of security incidents per district from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹¹²²

For the reference period, ACLED reported Al-Shabaab being involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)¹¹²³ in 222 security incidents (117 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 79 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 26 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in 1 294 fatalities in Hiraan administrative region.

Somali security forces (military and police forces) were reportedly involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)¹¹²⁴ in 140 security incidents (102 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 32 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 6 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in 902 fatalities, while *Ma’awiisley* clan militia (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) were involved in 23 security incidents (20 incidents coded as ‘battle’, 2 as ‘explosion/remote violence’ and 1 as ‘violence against civilians’), causing 164 fatalities.¹¹²⁵

While no overall dataset could be found on the number of conflict-related civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) in the region, [Table 9](#) shows the numbers of incidents and estimated fatalities (without distinction as to civilian and non-civilian) in Hiraan region that were recorded by ACLED between July 2021 and end of November 2022, by type of incident:

¹¹²² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹¹²³ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹¹²⁴ Please note that according to ACLED’s Codebook, ‘[t]he order of actors has no meaning in the ACLED system, barring cases of ‘Violence against civilians’, in which the victim is always coded as Actor2’. ACLED, Codebook, January 2021, [url](#), p. 18. For more details on ACLED’s methodology, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹¹²⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

Hiraan	Number of incidents	Number of estimated fatalities
Battles	146	968
Explosions/Remote violence	83	319
Violence against civilians	59	70
Total	288	1 357

Table 9. Hiraan – number of security incidents and fatalities by type of incident for the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data. ¹¹²⁶

Of the 1 357 fatalities recorded in Hiraan between July 2021 and end of November 2022, most (734 fatalities) were reported in Bulo Burto district, followed by Beletweyne district (520 fatalities) and Jalalaqsi district (103 fatalities). When focusing on incidents coded by ACLED as ‘violence against civilians’, most of the 59 incidents that caused a total number of 70 fatalities were reported in Beletweyne district (39 incidents and 35 fatalities), followed by Bulo Burto district (18 incidents and 33 fatalities) and Jalalaqsi district (2 incidents causing 2 fatalities). 20 incidents did not produce any fatalities. ¹¹²⁷

Illustrative security incidents with (high) impact on civilians¹¹²⁸

On 3 September 2022, near Afar Irdood in Bulo Burto district, Al Shabaab fighters attacked a convoy of seven vehicles carrying food and water from Beletweyne to Mahas town, killing at least 20 people, including women and children, and setting the vehicles on fire. ¹¹²⁹ VOA, which reported at least 21 victims, quoted local elders claiming that most of the victims had been shot in the head. ¹¹³⁰

On 2 December 2021, three children were killed in an exchange of artillery fire between Al-Shabaab and SNA and AMISOM forces in Beletweyne district. ¹¹³¹

On 23 March 2022, at least 48 people were killed and 108 injured in two suicide attacks at a polling station and in front of a hospital by Al-Shabaab in Beletweyne. Among the victims were two lawmakers, including Amina Mohamed Abdi, several security guards, and dozens of civilians. ¹¹³²

¹¹²⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹¹²⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹¹²⁸ The following is a selection of incidents and does not claim to be representative in any sense. Moreover, please note that security incidents related to clan conflicts do not always receive local media attention and hence might go under-reported in Somalia. Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#)

¹¹²⁹ Halbeeg, AU vows to support locals defeat Al-Shabaab, 4 September 2022, [url](#); BBC News Somali, Hiiraan: "Dad musaafur ah ayay Shabaabku ku gubeen gawaaridii ay saarnaayeen" [Hiran: "Al-Shabaab burned the cars of travelers"], 3 September 2022, [url](#)

¹¹³⁰ VOA, Al-Shabab Kills 21 in Somalia's Hiran Province, 3 September 2022, [url](#)

¹¹³¹ SomaliMemo, Weeraro culus oo lagu qaaday saldhigyo kuyaal Beledweyne iyo Buula Burde. [Heavy attacks on bases in Beletweyne and Bulo Burto], 2 December 2021, [url](#)

¹¹³² DW, Somalia twin attack: Politician killed in bomb blasts, 23 March 2022, [url](#)



On 19 February 2022, the night before the first round of voting for the country's parliamentary elections, at least 13 people were killed and 20 injured in a suicide attack by Al-Shabaab on a local restaurant in Beletweyne 'packed with local officials and politicians'.¹¹³³

Conflict-related displacement

Between July 2021 and November 2022, 257 147 individuals were newly displaced from Hiraaan due to conflict or insecurity, according to the UNHCR PRMN.¹¹³⁴ 98.54 % (or 253 391 individuals) of this group were displaced within the administrative region, while 3 756 individuals were displaced to other regions, including Banadir, Bari, Lower Shabelle and Mudug. In the same period, conflict and insecurity resulted in additional 12 900 individuals arriving from Galgaduud in Hiraaan. During the reference period, Beletweyne was the district most affected by this type of displacement, with 197 135 individuals arriving and 157 206 individuals leaving (including movements within the district).¹¹³⁵

UNHCR and the NRC noted in a joint report that fighting between local clans and non-state armed groups in Hiraaan region resulted in large-scale displacement, the destruction of property and of water sources and telecommunication infrastructure, while the local population faced arson, immolation and executions.¹¹³⁶

Other impacts on civilian life (e.g. infrastructure damage, evictions)

Local media reported on attacks by Al-Shabaab on Hawadle villages, where the group burnt down houses and destroyed water wells in August¹¹³⁷ and September 2022 amidst a severe drought.¹¹³⁸ In the latter attack, the group allegedly also poisoned a water well, causing the death of two people.¹¹³⁹

In September 2021, local media reported on a bomb attack by Al-Shabaab on Bullo Burto airport, injuring at least five people. The explosion reportedly destroyed part of the airstrip and a building, while damaging another. It was reportedly the second attack by the group on the airport's terminal building, where a Djibouti contingent of AMISOM forces was housed.¹¹⁴⁰ According to Shabelle Media Network (SMN), one person died in the attack.¹¹⁴¹ UNOCHA noted that the attack hindered air access to the besieged town of Bullo Burto and thus effectively

¹¹³³ Al Jazeera, At least 13 killed by suicide bomber in central Somalia, 19 February 2022, [url](#)

¹¹³⁴ For further information on this data and their handling, please see section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹¹³⁵ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

¹¹³⁶ NRC and UNHCR, Living in Fear - Conflict-induced displacements in Somalia: Protection gaps, risks and needs, 17 November 2022, [url](#), p. 3

¹¹³⁷ Critical Threats Project at the American Enterprise Institute, Africa File: Clan Uprising Bolsters anti-al Shabaab Offensive in Central Somalia, 15 September 2022, [url](#); Goobjoog, Al-Shabaab sets 7 villages on fire, blows up wells in Hiraaan region, 8 August 2022, [url](#)

¹¹³⁸ Hiiraan Online, Al Shabab burned down houses, destroyed a water well in central Somalia, 18 September 2022, [url](#); SD, Al Shabaab targets local villager's resources in Hiiraan, 18 September 2022, [url](#)

¹¹³⁹ Goobjoog, Two die after drinking from water well poisoned by Al-Shabaab in Mahas, Hiraaan region, 29 September 2022, [url](#); Halbeeg, Two dead after drinking water from Al Shabaab-poisoned well in Hiiraan, 29 September 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁴⁰ Garowe Online, At least five people injured as Al-Shabaab bombs Bullo Burte airstrip in Somalia, 19 September 2021, [url](#)

¹¹⁴¹ SMN, Somali military vows 'retaliation' over Al Shabab bomb attack, 21 September 2021, [url](#)



blocked humanitarian assistance from reaching the town, as it could only be accessed by air.¹¹⁴²

UNOCHA documented one humanitarian access incident¹¹⁴³ in Hiraan region between July and September 2021, specifically the above-mentioned attack on the Bulo Burto airport, which adversely affected humanitarian actors' ability to deliver assistance since the town could only be reached by air.¹¹⁴⁴ Between January and March 2022, UNOCHA documented four humanitarian access incidents in Hiraan region, specifically in Beletweyne and along the road connecting Beletweyne with Mataban, which is an important supply route.¹¹⁴⁵ No such data was available for the period between October and December 2021 and between April and November 2022.

Data accessed through the NRC Eviction Information Portal¹¹⁴⁶ listed no evictions¹¹⁴⁷ in the Hiraan region for the period July 2021 to September 2022.¹¹⁴⁸ IDP site verification exercises by the Global CCCM in January 2022 found that of the 92 verified IDP sites in Beletweyne, 17 % were classified as having an 'extreme risk' and 21 % as having a 'high risk' of eviction.¹¹⁴⁹ Of the 6 verified IDP sites in Jalalaqsi, all (100 %) have been classified as having an extreme risk of eviction as of January 2022.¹¹⁵⁰ The DSA conducted by the REACH and the Global CCCM Cluster in the Beletweyne district in Hiraan region in November and December 2021 indicated that 11 % of key informants reported 'perceiving a very high risk of forced eviction'.¹¹⁵¹

2.4.2. Middle Shabelle

(a) Background

Middle Shabelle (*Shabelle Dhexe*) region shares borders with Galgaduud to the northeast, Hiraan region to the northwest, Lower Shabelle and Banadir to the southwest and the Indian Ocean to the southeast. Middle Shabelle consists of four districts: Adan Yabaal, Cadale (Adale), Balcad and Jowhar. The region's capital city is Jowhar,¹¹⁵² which is also the capital city of Hirshabelle State (see above, Section 2.3), and located along a major road (and trade corridor) connecting Somalia's capital Mogadishu with the central regions.¹¹⁵³ Middle Shabelle is mainly inhabited by Hawiye clans, including the Abgal, Hawadle, Murusade, Galjaal (or

¹¹⁴² UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#)

¹¹⁴³ Such incidents include the following types: 'ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance', 'ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance' and 'armed hostilities preventing access'.

UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#)

¹¹⁴⁴ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), p. 2

¹¹⁴⁵ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 1 (January – March 2022), 17 July 2022, [url](#), p. 2

¹¹⁴⁶ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹¹⁴⁷ NRC defines 'forced evictions' as the 'removal against their will of people from their homes and/or land which they occupy, without any form of legal or other protection'. NRC, *An Unnecessary Burden: Forced Evictions and Covid-19*, 1 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1

¹¹⁴⁸ NRC, Eviction Information Portal, Data Sets, Somalia – July 2021-November 2022, as of 9 December 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁴⁹ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Beletweyne Verified IDP Sites – January 2022, 2 February 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁵⁰ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Jalalaqsi Verified IDP Sites – January 2022, 2 February 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁵¹ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Hiraan Region, March 2022, [url](#), p. 4

¹¹⁵² MSF, Somalia – General Reference Map, 11 October 2022, [url](#); UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#)

¹¹⁵³ UN Habitat and IOM, Jowhar - Urban Profile, November 2020, [url](#), p. 6

Gaaljeel) and Baadi Adde sub-clans. The region east of Shabelle river and around Jowhar town is inhabited by the Shiidle,¹¹⁵⁴ a Bantu minority group.¹¹⁵⁵

The 2014 Population Estimation Survey conducted by UNFPA and Somali authorities¹¹⁵⁶ estimated the population¹¹⁵⁷ of the Middle Shabelle region at 516 036, of whom 114 348 lived in urban areas, 249 326 in rural areas and 100 402 were nomads.¹¹⁵⁸ UNOCHA estimated the population of Middle Shabelle in 2021 at 857 395, including 140 512 men, 139 351 women, 551 869 children, and 25 665 elderly people.¹¹⁵⁹ A December 2022 IPC document listed the population of Middle Shabelle as 961 554 in 2022.¹¹⁶⁰ For figures on IDPs, see subsection below on conflict-related displacement.

(b) Actors' presence and conflict dynamics

Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence (along with other actors)

According to the Somali media outlet Garowe Online in December 2022, Middle Shabelle region has been one of Al-Shabaab's strongholds in the region.¹¹⁶¹ The African Union Mission ATMIS referred to Adan Yabaal district as a 'training ground' for the group before the district's liberation in early December 2022.¹¹⁶² As mentioned above, Al-Shabaab controlled large parts of Hirshabelle state, in particular rural areas and main supply routes, making most of the state's cities accessible only by air for anyone who would not 'pledge alliance to' Al-Shabaab.¹¹⁶³ Al-Shabaab was reported to have a 'heavy presence' on the road between Jowhar and Balad, which made it difficult for regional officials to travel to the capital by car. Several members of the regional parliament have reportedly been killed over the past years.¹¹⁶⁴

According to Map 4. Somalia - Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, Al-Shabaab fully controls Adan Yabaal district, bordering Galgaduud state, while control over other parts of Middle Shabelle region was reported to be mixed or unclear.¹¹⁶⁵ A comparison with an earlier map by Political Geography Now as of 30 June 2021 shows that during the reference period Al-Shabaab has extended its control from Adan Yabaal district southwards, especially along the coastline,¹¹⁶⁶ while control over the other parts of Middle Shabelle was

¹¹⁵⁴ EASO, COI report - South and Central Somalia Country overview [clan maps based on Lewis 1955, Abikar 1999], August 2014, [url](#), pp. 52-53

¹¹⁵⁵ EASO, COI report - South and Central Somalia Country overview, August 2014, [url](#), p. 46

¹¹⁵⁶ According to the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) of 2020, the 2014 Population Estimation Survey of Somalia 'is the most recent nationwide population estimation exercise undertaken in Somalia.' Somalia, NBS, The Somali Health and Demographic Survey 2020, 30 April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

¹¹⁵⁷ As of 2022, the 2014 estimates remain the figures used in the latest official publications of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). See e.g., Somalia, Somalia Data Portal, Population – Dashboards, 1 March 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁵⁸ UNFPA, Population Estimation Survey 2014, Somalia, October 2014, [url](#), p. 31

¹¹⁵⁹ UNOCHA, Somalia – 2021 Population Figures and Disaggregation, 7 December 2021, [url](#)

¹¹⁶⁰ IPC, Nearly 8.3 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes [Table], 13 December 2022, [url](#), p. 4

¹¹⁶¹ Garowe Online, Al-Shabaab militants continue to lose strategic towns in Somalia, 6 December 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁶² ATMIS, ATMIS congratulates SNA on the liberation of Adan Yabaal, 6 December 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁶³ HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), p. 28

¹¹⁶⁴ Keydmedia, Somali army kills 15 terrorists in operation on Al-Shabaab, 27 January 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁶⁵ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

¹¹⁶⁶ Keydmedia, Cabsi laga qabo Al-Shabaab oo looga kala cararay War-sheekh [Fears of Al-Shabaab Fleeing War-Sheikh], 1 September 2021, [url](#)

reported to be mixed or unclear.¹¹⁶⁷ Adan Yabaal district and town have reportedly been under control of Al-Shabaab since 2016¹¹⁶⁸ until early December 2022, when SNA and clan militia forces took control of the district.¹¹⁶⁹

Ma'awiisley forces, a local militia that appeared for the first time in Middle Shabelle in 2018,¹¹⁷⁰ reportedly supported the SNA in regaining control over areas controlled by Al-Shabaab.¹¹⁷¹ Locations returned under the control of government forces in October and November 2022 included for example Cad Caddey¹¹⁷² and Ceel Baraf (El-Baraf) villages,¹¹⁷³ Masjid Ali Gadud town (which reportedly had been under control of Al-Shabaab for the past 15 years¹¹⁷⁴),¹¹⁷⁵ El-Dheere town,¹¹⁷⁶ and several villages in Balcad district.¹¹⁷⁷ While Hawadle sub-clan militias have been supporting the SNA's offensive against Al-Shabaab since summer 2022, the Abgal – the dominant group in Middle Shabelle region and a Hawiye sub-clan like the Hawadle – reportedly joined forces with the SNA in September 2022, following an attack by Al-Shabaab on a humanitarian convoy on 2 September 2022.¹¹⁷⁸

According to ATMIS, Middle Shabelle region was under security responsibility of the Burundi National Defence Forces (BNDF), with their main operational base in Jowhar.¹¹⁷⁹

For more detailed information regarding various actors and their presence in Middle Shabelle up until 30 June 2021, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

Conflict dynamics

According to an August 2021 UN report on the situation in Somalia, Middle Shabelle was among the regions 'most affected overall by Al-Shabaab activity'.¹¹⁸⁰ In the reference period, conflict dynamics in Middle Shabelle included the ongoing confrontation between Al-Shabaab

¹¹⁶⁷ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 June 2021, n.a., non-public source

¹¹⁶⁸ Garowe Online, Al-Shabaab militants continue to lose strategic towns in Somalia, 6 December 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁶⁹ ATMIS, ATMIS congratulates SNA on the liberation of Adan Yabaal, 6 December 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁷⁰ VOA, 'Ma'awisley' Militias in Central Somalia Mobilizing Against al-Shabab, 4 October 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁷¹ Goobjoog, SNA liberates areas in Hiran and Middle Shabelle regions from Al-Shabaab, 12 September 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁷² International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch Digest Somalia November 2022, n.d., [url](#)

¹¹⁷³ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch Digest Somalia November 2022, n.d., [url](#); Somaliland.com, Somalia armed forces liberate El-Baraf Village in the Middle Shabelle from Alshabab, 13 November 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁷⁴ Radio Dalsan, Exclusive: Masjid Ali Gadud Village in Ruins following Liberation from Al-Shabab's 15-year rule, 1 November 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁷⁵ Radio Dalsan, Exclusive: Masjid Ali Gadud Village in Ruins following Liberation from Al-Shabab's 15-year rule, 1 November 2022, [url](#); International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch Digest Somalia October 2022, n.d., [url](#)

¹¹⁷⁶ SMN, Somali Govt forces, partners kill over Al-Shabaab militants, take town, 26 November 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁷⁷ SD, Somali government forces expel Al-Shabaab from areas in the Middle Shabelle, 17 October 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁷⁸ Hiiraan Online, Analysis: Clan uprising bolsters anti-al Shabaab offensive in central Somalia, 17 September 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁷⁹ ATMIS, Military Component, n.d., [url](#)

¹¹⁸⁰ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/723, 10 August 2021, [url](#), para. 11

and anti-Al-Shabaab forces,¹¹⁸¹ including clan militia.¹¹⁸² The government offensive against Al-Shabaab intensified since Summer 2022,¹¹⁸³ after State President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud announced a 'total war' against Al-Shabaab in August.¹¹⁸⁴ In some cases, however, Al-Shabaab reportedly returned to locations previously recovered by the SNA and their allied forces.¹¹⁸⁵ During the reference period, Al-Shabaab attacks on AMISOM/ATMIS forces, especially Burundian forces as they have their base in Middle Shabelle, were reported.¹¹⁸⁶ Al-Shabaab reportedly also launched several attacks on state officials, including in the context of the parliamentary and presidential elections,¹¹⁸⁷ and on the Hirshabelle presidential palace.¹¹⁸⁸

In August, October and November 2022, local media reported on inter-clan disputes over land in Cadale district, including over territory retaken from Al-Shabaab,¹¹⁸⁹ between Abgal sub-clan members.¹¹⁹⁰ A traditional clan elder for the Adow Uul region in Cadale district who was involved in mediation efforts in a conflict between two clans in the district was reportedly killed in November 2022.¹¹⁹¹ Clan disputes were also reported in Cadale district in July and August 2021 in the context of the parliamentary elections, with Abdalla Arone and Nugaale Arone Abgal sub-clan communities claiming the right to seats in the parliament.¹¹⁹² UN reported in the framework of the Reconciliation and Federalism Support Project (REFS) for Somalia on the signing of a peace agreement between Eli Omar and Abdalla Arone

¹¹⁸¹ Radio Dalsan, Hirshabelle leaders visit newly liberated Masjid Ali Gadudd Village, 1 November 2022, [url](#); Keydmedia, Somali military retakes control of new areas from Al-Shabaab, 27 September 2022, [url](#); Goobjoog, 7 Al-Shabaab terrorists killed, two captured by SNA troops, 28 May 2022, [url](#); Halbeeg, SNA kills seven al-Shabaab fighters in Lower Shabelle region, 3 February 2022, [url](#); AA, Somali military liberates 2 towns, 8 villages from terrorists, says official, 25 January 2022, [url](#); Warqaad, Ciidamada Dowladda oo deegaano cusub la wareegay [Government forces take over new areas], 10 October 2021, [url](#); SONNA, DANAB commandos forces liberate towns and villages in Middle shabelle and Hiran region, 12 September 2021, [url](#)

¹¹⁸² Hiiraan Online, Analysis: Clan uprising bolsters anti-al Shabaab offensive in central Somalia, 17 September 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁸³ National (The), Early gains but no quick victory in Somalia's renewed fight against Al Shabab, 26 November 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁸⁴ VOA, Somalia's President Vows 'Total War' Against al-Shabab, 24 August 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁸⁵ SG, Somalia's army says it has seized several villages from Al-Shabaab militants, 5 November 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁸⁶ SMN, Al-Shabaab fires mortars at AU mission Somalia, 10 October 2022, [url](#); Calamada, Askari Burundeys Ah Oo Lagu Toogtay Shabeelada Dhexe. [Burundian Soldier Shot in Middle Shabelle], 7 June 2022, [url](#); VOA, At Least 30 Burundian AU Soldiers Killed in Al-Shabab Attack, Official Says, 4 May 2022, [url](#); AA, Al-Shabaab kills 4 African Union peacekeepers in Somalia, 12 December 2021, [url](#); Radio Al-Furqaan, Askar Burundeys Ah Oo Lagu Xasuuqay Gobalka Sh-Dhexe. [Burundian Soldiers Killed In Middle Shabelle region], 18 November 2021, [url](#); Calamada, Qaraxyo Askar Lagu Dilay Gaadiidna Lagu Gubay Oo Ka Dhacay Koonfurta Somalia. [Explosions Kill Soldiers and Burn Vehicles in Southern Somalia.], 2 September 2021, [url](#)

¹¹⁸⁷ SG, Somalia: Truck bomb hits a hotel popular with officials in Jowhar, 17 July 2022, [url](#); SD, Al-Shabaab executes a female presidential palace guard, 6 March 2022, [url](#); SD, Al-Shabaab claims responsibility for Jowhar bombing, 12 December 2021, [url](#); Horn Observer, Two lawmakers wounded in blast in Jowhar, 6 October 2021, [url](#)

¹¹⁸⁸ SG, Mortar Shells Land at Somali Regional President's Palace, 5 September 2021, [url](#)

¹¹⁸⁹ Somaliland.com, President Hassan Sheikh meets with traditional elders and religious leaders in Adale of Middle Shabelle, 26 November 2022, [url](#); Radio Dalsan, Clan - Militias contesting control for newly liberated regions in Middle Shabelle asked to stop fighting, 13 November 2022, [url](#); Mustaqbal Media, Somalia: Leaders move swiftly to deal with tribal conflicts in the Middle Shabelle region, 20 October 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁹⁰ Hiiraan Online, Former Hirshabelle President: 'Dark forces' fuelling clan conflicts in recently-liberated areas, 16 November 2022, [url](#); Radio Dalsan, Gov't Officials Mediate Inter-Clan Conflict in Adalle District, 16 August 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁹¹ Hiiraan Online, Respected clan elder killed in Adale, Middle Shabelle Region, 24 November 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁹² Caasimada, Daawo: Beel ka tirsan Abgaal oo hub iyo ciidan lasoo baxday kana hortimid doorashada [Watch: Abgal clan opposes election with weapons], 28 August 2021, [url](#); Caasimada, Madaxweyne Xasan: Dalka oo dhan waa wada tabasho, waana in la is weydiiyaa [President Hassan: The whole country is concerned and should be asked], 23 July 2021, [url](#)

communities of the Abgal sub-clan in November 2021. The agreement reportedly ended long-lasting conflicts over land and land-based resources.¹¹⁹³

Clan expert Joakim Gundel, in July 2021, remarked on the reportedly long-lasting conflict between the Shiidle minority group and the Abgal, a Hawiye sub-clan. While the former group traditionally controlled the banks of the Shabelle River, the Abgal nomads had an access agreement to the water for their livestock.¹¹⁹⁴ For more detailed information regarding potential conflicts and conflict dynamics in Middle Shabelle up until 30 June 2021, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

(c) Recent security incidents and trends

Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), civilian casualties

In the reference period, ACLED reported 237 security incidents in Middle Shabelle region, including battles, explosions, or other forms of remote violence and violent acts against civilians, causing 1 000 fatalities ([Figure 30](#)).¹¹⁹⁵

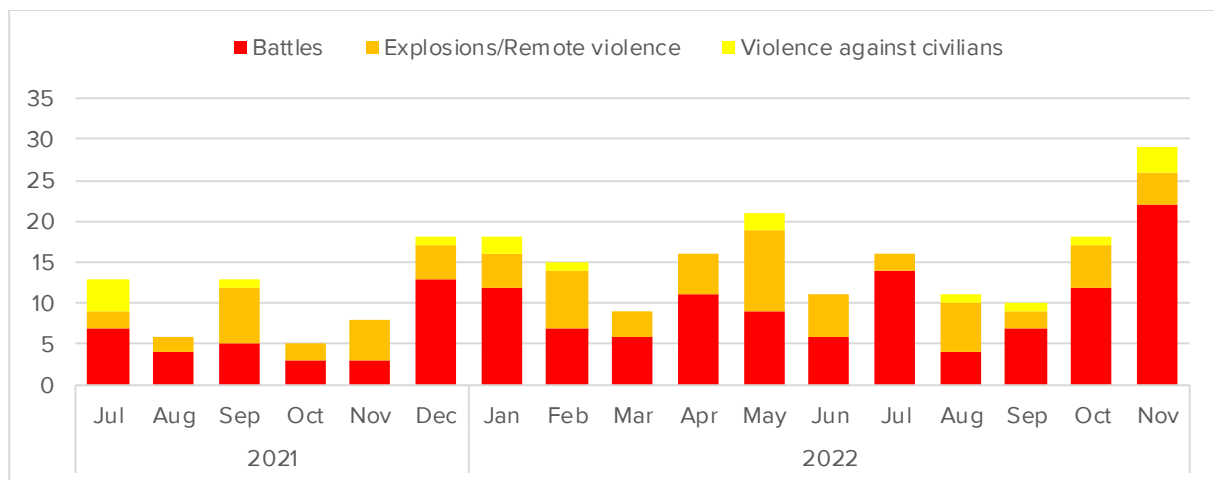


Figure 30. Middle Shabelle – Evolution of security incidents coded battles, explosion/remote violence and violence against civilians from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹¹⁹⁶

At the district level, Jowhar recorded the most security incidents (111 incidents), followed by Balcad district (87 incidents), Cadale district (35 incidents) and Adan Yabaal (4 incidents) between July 2021 and November 2022 ([Figure 31](#)).¹¹⁹⁷

¹¹⁹³ UN Somalia, Reconciliation and Federalism Support Project (REFS) for Somalia. UN Somalia Joint Fund Progress Report 1 January to 31 December 2021, n.d., [url](#), p. 20

¹¹⁹⁴ Gundel, J., interview 7 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 104

¹¹⁹⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁹⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁹⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

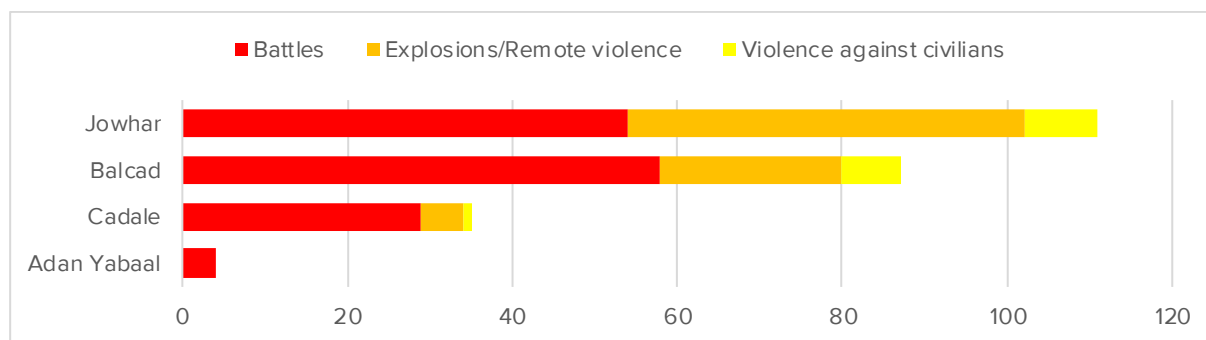


Figure 31. Middle Shabelle – Breakdown of security incidents per district from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹¹⁹⁸

For the reference period, ACLED reported Al-Shabaab being involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)¹¹⁹⁹ in 209 security incidents (129 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 72 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 8 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in 910 fatalities in Middle Shabelle administrative region. Somali security forces (military and police forces) were reportedly involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 123 security incidents (96 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 24 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 3 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in 661 fatalities, while the Abgal-Gabaane Mohamed sub-clan militia was involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 5 security incidents (all 5 coded as ‘battles’ and with members of the Abgal-Abdalla Arone Sub-Clan Militia) resulting in 35 fatalities.¹²⁰⁰

While no overall dataset could be found on the number of conflict-related civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) in the region, [Table 10](#) shows the numbers of incidents and estimated fatalities (without distinction as to civilian and non-civilian) in Middle Shabelle region that were recorded by ACLED between July 2021 and end of November 2022, by type of incident:

Middle Shabelle	Number of incidents	Number of estimated fatalities
Battles	145	740
Explosions/Remote violence	75	239
Violence against civilians	17	21
Total	237	1 000

Table 10. Middle Shabelle – number of security incidents and fatalities by type of incident for the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data.

Of the 1 000 fatalities recorded in Middle Shabelle between July 2021 and end of November 2022, most (505 fatalities) were reported in Cadale district, ahead of Jowhar district (250 fatalities), Balcad district (239 fatalities) and Adan Yabaal district (6 fatalities). When focusing on incidents coded by ACLED as ‘violence against civilians’, most of the 17 incidents that caused in total 21 fatalities were reported in Jowhar district (9 incidents and 6 fatalities),

¹¹⁹⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁹⁹ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹²⁰⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

followed by Balcad district (7 incidents and 12 fatalities) and Cadale district (1 incident causing 3 fatalities).¹²⁰¹

Illustrative security incidents with (high) impact on civilians¹²⁰²

One civilian was killed and several persons, including regional officials and security personnel, were injured in a bomb attack by Al-Shabaab on a restaurant in the Kulmis neighbourhood in Jowhar city on 12 December 2021, according to SD.¹²⁰³

At least four civilians were killed in an explosion when the vehicle they were travelling in ran over a roadside bomb near Hansholey village in Jowhar district on 14 February 2022. No group has reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack.¹²⁰⁴

Two civilians, a mother and her son,¹²⁰⁵ were reportedly killed and at least two others were injured in an artillery attack by Al-Shabaab on an ATMIS base and surrounding residential buildings in Biyo Cadde village on 12 May 2022.¹²⁰⁶

At least five persons, including hotel employees and security guards, were killed and 14 others were injured in a bomb attack by Al-Shabaab on the Nur Doob hotel in Jowhar city on 17 July 2022.¹²⁰⁷ In a second attack close to the Nur Doob hotel, which is located near Hirshabelle State's presidential palace, on 7 August 2022, six civilians were injured, including two children, according to Keydmedia. No immediate responsibility was claimed for the attack.¹²⁰⁸

On 29 November 2022, a family of five was killed in the context of a tribal conflict in the village of Halule in War Sheikh area in Middle Shabelle.¹²⁰⁹

On 3 May 2022, at least 30 Burundian soldiers were reportedly killed and 20 injured in an attack by Al-Shabaab on a base of ATMIS forces in the town of Ceel Baraf (El-Baraf).¹²¹⁰

¹²⁰¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁰² The following is a selection of incidents and does not claim to be representative in any sense. Moreover, please note that security incidents related to clan conflicts do not always receive local media attention and hence might go under-reported in Somalia. Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁰³ SD, Al-Shabaab claims responsibility for Jowhar bombing, 12 December 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁰⁴ SMN, At least 4 killed in roadside blast in Somalia, 14 February 2022, [url](#); AA, Roadside bomb kills 4 civilians in southern Somalia, 14 February 2022, [url](#); Halbeeg, Roadside bomb blast near Jowhar kills 4 civilians, 14 February 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁰⁵ Hiiraan Online, Hooyo iyo wiilkeeda oo ku dhintay madaafiic lagu garaacay deegaanka Biyocadde ee gobolka Sh/dhexe [A mother and her son died in an explosion in Biyo Adde area of Middle Shabelle region], 12 May 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁰⁶ SMN, Two from same family killed in Al-Shabaab mortar attack in Somalia, 12 May 2022, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Hooyo iyo wiilkeeda oo ku dhintay madaafiic lagu garaacay deegaanka Biyocadde ee gobolka Sh/dhexe [A mother and her son died in an explosion in Biyo Adde area of Middle Shabelle region], 12 May 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁰⁷ Defense Post (The), Car Bomb Kills Five at Somalia Hotel: Police, 18 July 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁰⁸ Keydmedia, Two children among six people wounded in Somalia car bombing, 7 August 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁰⁹ Hiiraan Online, Qoys ka koobnaa shan ruux oo dil wadareed loogu geystay gobolka Shabeeladda dhexe [A family of five people killed in Middle Shabelle region], 29 November 2022, [url](#); SMN, Five family members killed in a cold-blood murder in Somalia, 29 November 2022, [url](#)

¹²¹⁰ VOA, At Least 30 Burundian AU Soldiers Killed in Al-Shabab Attack, Official Says, 4 May 2022, [url](#)



Conflict-related displacement

Between July 2021 and November 2022, 37 743 individuals were newly displaced from Middle Shabelle due to conflict or insecurity, according to the UNHCR PRMN.¹²¹¹ 47.43 % (or 17 900 individuals) of this group were displaced within the administrative region, while 19 843 individuals were displaced to other regions, including Banadir (16 855 individuals) and Lower Shabelle (2 988 individuals). In the same period, conflict and insecurity resulted in the arrival of 14 individuals from Lower Shabelle in Middle Shabelle. During the reference period, Balcad was the district most affected by this type of displacement, with 8 070 individuals arriving and 16 526 individuals leaving (including movements within the district).¹²¹² According to UNOCHA, Balcad town hosted over 21 000 IDPs as of September 2022.¹²¹³ Radio Dalsan reported in November 2022 on interclan clashes in the villages of Gelgub, Hajji Ali, El-Muluq and Labagaras shortly after control over the area was retaken from Al-Shabaab. Due to the conflict, more than 1 500 individuals were displaced from these villages, reported Radio Dalsan with reference to ‘credible sources’.¹²¹⁴ In a joint report on conflict-induced displacements, UNHCR and NRC quoted local communities that Aden Yabal, Basra, Warmoy, Yaaqle, Mukay, Xawadley, and Masaajid Ali Gaduud were ‘hotspot locations’ in the context of fights between non-state armed groups (NSAGs) and clan militia, with many locals fleeing forced recruitments of children by armed groups as well as taxation, threats and targeted killings.¹²¹⁵

Other impacts on civilian life

UNOCHA documented no humanitarian access incidents¹²¹⁶ in Middle Shabelle region between July and September 2021;¹²¹⁷ between January and March 2022, UNOCHA documented two humanitarian access incidents in the region, specifically along the road between Jowhar airport and town.¹²¹⁸ No such data was available for the period between October and December 2021 and between April and November 2022.

Data accessed through the NRC Eviction Information Portal¹²¹⁹ listed no evictions in the Middle Shabelle region for the period July 2021 to September 2022.¹²²⁰

IDP site verification exercises by the Global CCCM in October 2021 found that of the 12 verified IDP sites in Jowhar, 8 % were classified as having a high risk of eviction.¹²²¹ In October

¹²¹¹ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹²¹² UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

¹²¹³ UNOCHA, Somalia. Update by Area: Hirshabelle, 18 September 2022, [url](#)

¹²¹⁴ Radio Dalsan, Middle Shabelle urged to end interclan wars, 16 November 2022, [url](#)

¹²¹⁵ NRC and UNHCR, Living in Fear - Conflict-induced displacements in Somalia: Protection gaps, risks and needs, 17 November 2022, [url](#), p. 3

¹²¹⁶ Such incidents include the following types: ‘ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance’, ‘ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance’ and ‘armed hostilities preventing access’.

UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#)

¹²¹⁷ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#)

¹²¹⁸ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 1 (January – March 2022), 17 July 2022, [url](#)

¹²¹⁹ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹²²⁰ NRC, Eviction Information Portal, Data Sets, Somalia – July 2021-November 2022, as of 9 December 2022, [url](#)

¹²²¹ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Jowhar Verified IDP Sites – October 2021, 20 October 2021, [url](#)



2022, the number of verified IDP sites in Jowhar had increased to 21, and more than half of them (52 %) were classified as having an extreme or high risk of eviction.¹²²² The DSA conducted by the REACH and the Global CCCM Cluster in Middle Shabelle region in November and December 2021 indicated that the ‘proportion of assessed sites where [key informants] reported perceiving a very high risk of forced eviction’ was 0 % (zero) in Balcad district and 57 % in Jowhar district.¹²²³

Hiiraan Online and Anadolu Agency reported on a mortar attack by Al-Shabaab on the airport of Jowhar city in December 2021. It was reported that the attack caused some destruction, but no further details of the destruction’s nature or scale were given.¹²²⁴

According to UNOCHA, Al-Shabaab fighters attacked Mukadhere and Mareerey villages in east of Balcad district on 28 and 29 January 2022, following an attack by government forces against Al-Shabaab fighters a few days earlier. In their attack, Al-Shabaab forces reportedly burnt almost all the houses in Mukadhere, Xanlay and Bananey and destroyed private clinics, schools, mosques and other buildings, claiming that the owners had collaborated with the government forces. Nine civilians were killed in the attacks and a high number of residents of the villages was displaced.¹²²⁵ According to the Somali media outlet Halbeeg referring to other sources, hundreds of families fled from their homes after the attack.¹²²⁶

2.4.3. Hirshabelle – Checkpoints and road security

Based on information provided by an international expert, the following main corridors in Hirshabelle were identified:

- **Mogadishu – Balcad - Jowhar – Jalalaqsi – Bulo Burto – Beletweyne.** Overall, in recent years the situation on this route has deteriorated with Al-Shabaab exerting considerable pressure on the government-controlled district centres and the route. Ongoing military operations, particularly on the Hiraa region in the north of the state have curtailed the groups influence, particularly on the eastern side on the Shabelle river. However, it is unclear how sustainable the gains made are, particularly given recent Al-Shabaab attacks in infrastructure e.g. Bulo Burto bridge.
- **Beletweyne – Mataban – Gurieel:** improved access as a result of ongoing military operations in conjunction with community defence forces, although as with main riverine route it is unclear how sustainable access will be over longer term.
- **Beletweyne – Mahas or Bulo Burto to Mahas:** improved access as a result of ongoing military operations in conjunction with community defence forces, although as with main riverine route it is unclear how sustainable access will be over longer term.
- **Mogadishu – Adale:** route generally considered secure up to War Sheikh although from Rage Ceel onwards to Adale there are sporadic Al-Shabaab attacks.¹²²⁷

¹²²² CCCM Cluster Somalia, Jowhar Verified IDP Sites – October 2022, 17 October 2022, [url](#)

¹²²³ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Middle Shabelle Region, March 2022, [url](#), pp. 4, 8

¹²²⁴ Hiiraan Online, Al-Shabaab fires mortar shells at Jowhar airport, 9 December 2021, [url](#); AA, Al-Shabaab targets airport in Somalia's Jowhar city, 9 December 2021, [url](#)

¹²²⁵ UNOCHA, Update on situation in Balcad, Middle Shabelle – As of 30 January 2022, 10 February 2022, [url](#)

¹²²⁶ Halbeeg, Hundreds flee as al-Shabaab fighters burn village near Bal’ad, 30 January 2022, [url](#)

¹²²⁷ International expert, email, 11 December 2022

Local media reported on a suspected Al-Shabaab attack on a security forces checkpoint in Bulo Burto town in Hiraan region in July 2022,¹²²⁸ and on an attack on a military checkpoint in Balad town in Middle Shabelle in May 2022. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack, saying that it had killed seven soldiers in the incident.¹²²⁹ Al-Shabaab-affiliated media reported on attacks on security forces checkpoints on the road between Gurieel and Mataban in Hiraan region in June 2022,¹²³⁰ and on security forces checkpoints in Middle Shabelle region, namely in Balad district in March 2022¹²³¹ and December 2021,¹²³² and in Cadale district in February 2022.¹²³³

Local media also reported on several explosions of IEDs and roadside bombs set by Al-Shabaab including targeting security forces. Explosions were reported to have taken place – among others – near Balad town in Middle Shabelle region in June 2022¹²³⁴ and in Balad town in March 2022,¹²³⁵ on the road between Burane and Mahaday towns in December 2021¹²³⁶ in Aqaboy village near Buqda area in Hiraan region in September 2022,¹²³⁷ and on a segment of the road between Feerfeer (in Ethiopia) and Kalabayr (in Mudug region) in Hiraan region in January 2022.¹²³⁸ Al-Shabaab-affiliated media reported on an explosion on the road between Golaley village and Mogadishu in Middle Shabelle in December 2021.¹²³⁹

Security forces and clan militia reportedly cleared illegal road blocks near villages in the north of Bulo Burto district in Hiraan region in November 2022.¹²⁴⁰

In September 2022, government forces cleared the main road connecting Bulo Burto and Beletweyne districts in Hiraan region.¹²⁴¹ In Middle Shabelle region, in July 2022, security forces reportedly dismantled Al-Shabaab hideouts along the road between Balad town and Jowhar,¹²⁴² and cleared illegal roadblocks controlled by clan militias in several villages.¹²⁴³ Security forces, with the support of clan militia, cleared illegal Al-Shabaab checkpoints in Adan

¹²²⁸ Keydmedia, An explosion in central Somalia leaves two dead, 23 July 2022, [url](#)

¹²²⁹ Goobjoog, Al-Shabaab kills at least seven soldiers in Bal'ad, 21 May 2022, [url](#)

¹²³⁰ SomaliMemo, Dagaal ka dhacay duleedka Matabaan iyo Askari lagu dilay degmada Kaaraan. [Fighting in Mataban and a soldier killed in Karan area], 14 June 2022, [url](#)

¹²³¹ Radio Al-Furqaan, Askari Katirsan DF Oo Lagu Dilay Weerar Ka Dhacay Shabeellaha Dhexe [Federal Government Soldier Killed In Central Shabelle Attack], 12 March 2022, [url](#)

¹²³² Calamada, Dagaal Culus Oo Ka Dhacay Deegaanka Godinlabe. [Heavy fighting in Godinlabe area], 6 December 2021, [url](#)

¹²³³ SomaliMemo, Weerar Askar lagu dilay oo ka dhacay degmada Cadale. [An attack in which soldiers were killed in Adale district], 11 February 2022, [url](#)

¹²³⁴ Goobjoog, Al-Shabaab claims to have killed 15 Danab forces in Middle Shabelle, 9 June 2022, [url](#)

¹²³⁵ SD, Al Shabab claim Killing six AMISOM soldiers in Balad, 19 March 2022, [url](#)

¹²³⁶ AA, Al-Shabaab kills 4 African Union peacekeepers in Somalia, 12 December 2021, [url](#)

¹²³⁷ Goobjoog, Prominent traditional elder, son among four killed in roadside bomb, 17 September 2022, [url](#)

¹²³⁸ SG, 15 Ethiopian Soldiers Killed in Roadside Blast in Central Somalia, Claim Militants, 1 January 2022, [url](#)

¹²³⁹ Calamada, Manuur Oo Lagu Dilay Degmada Buurhakabo. [Manur killed in Burhakabo district], 23 December 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁴⁰ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Risala News 1600 gmt 17 Nov 22, 22 November 2022

¹²⁴¹ Goobjoog, SNA clears main road previously under Al-Shabaab control for the last 13 years, 21 September 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁴² SMN, Somali troops unleash anti-al-shabaab Ops near Bal'ad, 7 July 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁴³ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somali's Radio Mogadishu News 1700 gmt 22 Jul 22, 26 July 2022

Yabaal district in October 2022.¹²⁴⁴ Security forces also cleared road blocks set up by armed militias on the coastal road in Cadale district in October 2021.¹²⁴⁵ Al-Shabaab reportedly used checkpoints to extort money from the local population.¹²⁴⁶ The UN Panel of Experts noted in October 2022 that ‘the checkpoint network remains robust and is an integral source of Al-Shabaab’s income’ and that Al-Shabaab was continuing with its attempts to expand the network. In May 2022, the Panel had noted a new checkpoint set up by Al-Shabaab along an important supply route about 50km northeast of Beletweyne town in Hiraan region. There, the group imposed illicit taxes on the drivers and the goods they were transporting.¹²⁴⁷

2.5. Galmudug

2.5.1. Galgaduud

(a) Background

Galgaduud (or Galguduud) region shares internal borders with the regions of Mudug, Hiraan and Middle Shabelle. It also shares an international border with Ethiopia, and it borders the Indian ocean. Galgaduud consists of five districts: Cabudwaaq, Cadaado, Dhuusamarreeb, Ceel Buur and Ceel Dheer. Dhuusamarreeb is the region’s capital.¹²⁴⁸ Galgaduud is mainly inhabited by the Habar Gidir (Hawiye) sub-clans, Suleiman (also Suliman or Saleban), Ayr and Duduble, and the Murasade (Hawiye) clan. The Marehan (Darod) sub-clan is also present in the border area of Ethiopia.¹²⁴⁹

A December 2022 IPC document listed the population of Galgaduud as 689 872 in 2022.¹²⁵⁰ UNOCHA estimated the population of Galgaduud in 2021 at 687 572 (including 115 996 men, 117 179 women, 422 908 children and 31 489 elderly people).¹²⁵¹ The 2014 Population Estimation Survey conducted by UNFPA and the Somali authorities¹²⁵² estimated the population¹²⁵³ of Galgaduud at 569 434, of whom 183 553 lived in urban areas, 52 089 in rural

¹²⁴⁴ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia’s Radio Kulmiye News 1700 gmt 20 Oct 22, 25 October 2022

¹²⁴⁵ Mogadishu Times, Ciidamada DF oo weerar ku qaaday duleedka Muqdisho iyo Saney Cabdulle oo loo xil...[Df forces attack Mogadishu and Saney Abdulle...], 6 October 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁴⁶ Radio Dalsan, Somali army destroy al-Shabab bases in central Somalia, 23 August 2022, [url](#); SONNA, Danab commandos conduct planned operations in middle Shabelle, 19 December 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁴⁷ UN Security Council, Letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2022/754, 10 October 2022, [url](#), para. 41

¹²⁴⁸ MSF, Somalia – General Reference Map, 11 October 2022, [url](#); UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#)

¹²⁴⁹ EASO, COI report - South and Central Somalia Country overview [clan maps based on Lewis 1955, Abikar 1999], August 2014, [url](#), pp. 52-53

¹²⁵⁰ IPC, Nearly 8.3 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes [Table], 13 December 2022, [url](#), p. 4

¹²⁵¹ UNOCHA, Somalia – 2021 Population Figures and Disaggregation, 7 December 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁵² According to the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) of 2020, the 2014 Population Estimation Survey of Somalia ‘is the most recent nationwide population estimation exercise undertaken in Somalia. Somalia’, NBS, The Somali Health and Demographic Survey 2020, 30 April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

¹²⁵³ As of 2022, the 2014 estimates remain the figures used in the latest official publications of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). See e.g., Somalia, Somalia Data Portal, Population – Dashboards, 1 March 2022, [url](#); Somalia, NBS, Galmudug Report 2021, 23 May 2022, [url](#), p. 2

areas, and 214 024 were nomads.¹²⁵⁴ For figures on IDPs, see subsection below on conflict-related displacement.

(b) Actors' presence and conflict dynamics

Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence (along with other actors)

According to [Map 4. Somalia - Approximate Territorial Control](#), as of 30 November 2022 Al-Shabaab reportedly controlled the south-eastern part of Galgaduud, up to the coast, including the urban areas of Ceel Dheer¹²⁵⁵ and Ceel Buur¹²⁵⁶. Further north, control over the area south and east of Dhusamareb, was reported to be mixed or unclear.¹²⁵⁷

In November 2022, Somali security forces reportedly seized the strategically and economically important town of Wabho in central Galgaduud, which had been controlled by Al-Shabaab for more than 15 years.¹²⁵⁸ In September and October 2022, various media sources reported on operations by the SNA and government-backed militias against Al-Shabaab resulting in territorial gains for the Somali government in the Galgaduud region.¹²⁵⁹ A previous map by Political Geography Now as of 30 June 2021 shows identical territories of mixed/unclear control and control by Al-Shabaab in Galgaduud region as the more recent map dated October 2022 mentioned above.¹²⁶⁰

Ma'awisley (or Macawiisley), a mainly¹²⁶¹ clan-based, state-supported independent¹²⁶² locally mobilized militia¹²⁶³ that follows regionally different rules and customs and was initially active mainly in the Hiiraan, Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle regions,¹²⁶⁴ reportedly played a role in liberating areas from Al-Shabaab in Galgaduud region during the reference period¹²⁶⁵.

¹²⁵⁴ UNFPA, Population Estimation Survey 2014, Somalia, October 2014, [url](#), p. 31

¹²⁵⁵ Reuters reported in December 2021 that the city had been captured by Al-Shabaab. Reuters, Somali Islamist insurgents make gains as government and allies fall out, 15 December 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁵⁶ VOA reported that Ceel Buur town is believed to be the main center of Al-Shabaab in Galgaduud region, as of September 2022. VOA, Abaabulka duulaan ku wajahan Ceelbuur oo socda [Preparations for an invasion of Ceel Buur are underway], 22 September 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁵⁷ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

¹²⁵⁸ VOA, Somali Military Liberates Key Town from al-Shabab Militants, 9 November 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁵⁹ Garowe Online, Somalia: Mogadishu gets new police boss after Al-Shabaab killed the ex-chief, 11 October 2022, [url](#); Halbeeg, Somali forces can take over security responsibility of their country – AU, 27 September 2022, [url](#); VOA, Somalia Military Makes Gains in Large-scale Offensive Against Al-Shabab, 26 September 2022, [url](#); Garowe Online, Somalia: Al-Shabaab targets military training base; 15 dead, 25 September 2022, [url](#); MTV Somali, War on Al Shabab: Troops leave Mogadishu to Dhusamareb by road for first time in 14 years, 23 September 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁶⁰ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 June 2022, n.a., non-public source

¹²⁶¹ Shire, M.I., email, 14 April 2022. As cited in ACCORD, Anfragebeantwortung zu Somalia: Informationen zur Miliz Macawiisley [Query response on Somalia: Information on Macawiisley militia], 22 April 2022 [url](#). Dr Mohammed Ibrahim Shire is a lecturer at the University of Portsmouth researching terrorism and political violence.

¹²⁶² VOA, Somalia Military Makes Gains in Large-scale Offensive Against Al-Shabab, 26 September 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁶³ Keydmedia, A Govt-allied militia attacks Al-Shabaab base in Somalia, 4 September 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁶⁴ Shire, M.I., email, 14 April 2022. As cited in ACCORD, Anfragebeantwortung zu Somalia: Informationen zur Miliz Macawiisley [Query response on Somalia: Information on Macawiisley militia], 22 April 2022 [url](#)

¹²⁶⁵ VOA, Somalia Military Makes Gains in Large-scale Offensive Against Al-Shabab, 26 September 2022, [url](#); VOA, 'Ma'awisley' Militias in Central Somalia Mobilizing Against al-Shabab, 4 October 2022, [url](#)

Duduble, Murusade, and Wa'aysle (Hawiye sub-clans) mainly inhabited the areas controlled or contested by Al-Shabaab.¹²⁶⁶ For further information in this regard, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#). As part of the Somali government's plan to mobilise militias to fight Al-Shabaab, Suleiman clan militias reportedly cleared the town of Bahdo of Al-Shabaab's control in June 2022.¹²⁶⁷

For more detailed information regarding various actors and their presence in Galgaduud up until 30 June 2021, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

Conflict dynamics

In the reference period, conflict dynamics in Galgaduud included the ongoing confrontation between Al-Shabaab and anti Al-Shabaab forces,¹²⁶⁸ including the ASWJ and Ma'awisley local militia.¹²⁶⁹ As reported in an VOA October 2022 article on intense fighting against Al-Shabaab in Galgaduud, 'unlike in the past, civilians have joined with the military to wage war against the militant group.'¹²⁷⁰ Other sources also reported in September and October 2022 that Galgaduud residents took up arms¹²⁷¹ and local (tribal)¹²⁷² militias joined government forces in the fight against Al-Shabaab.¹²⁷³

After more than a year in exile,¹²⁷⁴ the leadership of ASWJ,¹²⁷⁵ a moderate¹²⁷⁶ Sufi armed group,¹²⁷⁷ returned to the group's stronghold Galgaduud,¹²⁷⁸ prompting the mobilisation of

¹²⁶⁶ EASO, COI report - South and Central Somalia Country overview [clan maps based on Lewis 1955, Abikar 1999], August 2014, [url](#), pp. 52-53; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

¹²⁶⁷ Horn Observer, Somalia's president plans to use clan militia to degrade al-Shabaab – Sources, 2 September 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁶⁸ FTL, SNA Forces Recapture a Galgadud Village from Al-Shabaab, 25 October 2022, [url](#); VOA, Somalia Military Makes Gains in Large-scale Offensive Against Al-Shabab, 26 September 2022, [url](#); Radio Risaala, Dagaal xooggan oo ka socda Duleedka Dhuusamareeb [Heavy fighting is going on outside Dhusamareeb], 22 September 2022, [url](#); Horseed Media, SOMALIA: Heavy fighting in Hiran & Galgaduud regions as Al Shabab seeks to retake villages, 1 September 2022, [url](#); Strategic Intelligence News, Monthly Counter-Terrorism Intelligence Brief for East Africa (Kenya & Somalia) Shabaab Al-Mujahideen in Period of April 1st – April 30th, 2022: Tracking and Monitoring Al-Shabaab's Activity in East Africa, 3 May 2022, [url](#); Strategic Intelligence News, Monthly Counter-Terrorism Intelligence Brief for East Africa (Kenya & Somalia) Shabaab Al-Mujahideen in Period of January 1st – January 31st, 2022: Tracking and Monitoring Al-Shabaab's Activity in East Africa, 3 February 2022, [url](#); AA, Somali military claims killing 15 al-Shabaab terrorists, 4 July 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁶⁹ SD, Al Shabaab Spokesman warns Ma'awisley, as hundreds militants complete training, 19 September 2022, [url](#); Keydmedia, Galmudug oo eedday ku hoos noolaanshaha Farmaajo[Galmudug accused of living under Farmajo], 1 September 2021, [url](#);

¹²⁷⁰ VOA, Regional Governor in Somalia Puts Bounty on al-Shabab Chiefs, 17 October 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁷¹ FTL, SNA Troops Join Forces with Local Communities to Destroy Al-Shabaab Bases in Galgadud, 24 October 2022, [url](#); SD, Galgadud: Local Militias organize to rid Al Shabaab of their communities, 14 September 2022, [url](#); Keydmedia, Galmudug president's term of office extended by 1 year, 13 September 2022, [url](#); Goobjoog, Al-Shabaab militants raze several houses in Galgadud, 6 September 2022, [url](#);

¹²⁷² SD, Al Shabaab Spokesman warns Ma'awisley, as hundreds militants complete training, 19 September 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁷³ FTL, SNA Forces Recapture a Galgadud Village from Al-Shabaab, 25 October 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁷⁴ HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), p. 25

¹²⁷⁵ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/944, 11 November 2021, [url](#), para. 10

¹²⁷⁶ Crisis 24, Somalia: Government forces launch military operation to retake town of Guriel Oct. 23, 23 October 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁷⁷ VOA, At Least 20 Killed as Somalia Troops Battle Moderate Islamist Militia, 23 October 2021, [url](#); Garowe Online, Somalia's PM calls for an immediate end to Galmudug conflict, 2 October 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁷⁸ Garowe Online, Somalia's PM calls for an immediate end to Galmudug conflict, 2 October 2021, [url](#)

former ASWJ fighters in Dhuusamarreeb district in September 2021.¹²⁷⁹ Although the ASWJ was considered an SNA ally in the fight against Al-Shabaab¹²⁸⁰ with a notable track record,¹²⁸¹ underlying conflicts with the government over power and influence¹²⁸² reportedly caused the renewed fighting.¹²⁸³ During the reference period, clashes between the ASWJ and the SNA were reported,¹²⁸⁴ including fighting in the ASWJ stronghold of Bohol in September 2021,¹²⁸⁵ and heavy clashes in Gurieel in October 2021.¹²⁸⁶ As a result of the clashes, over 120 people were killed and over 100 000 displaced.¹²⁸⁷ After renewed clashes in Dhusambareb in May 2022, an SNA military operation against the ASWJ stronghold in Bohol was launched.¹²⁸⁸ After May 2022, no information on ASWJ activities in Galgaduud could be found within the time constraints of this report. Moreover, data provided by ACLED did not include any security incidents (including battles, explosions/remote violence, violence against civilians) in which ASWJ was coded as an actor between June and November 2022.¹²⁸⁹

In Galgaduud, clan conflicts persisted as a major issue, with clan violence resulting in loss of life and livelihoods. Between November 2020 and September 2021 conflicts reportedly escalated in the region.¹²⁹⁰ In the reference period, clashes between clans were, for example,¹²⁹¹ reported in the Labagalle area (Cabudwaaq district),¹²⁹² in Xinjilab area (Cabudwaaq district),¹²⁹³ in the Heraale area (west of Balanbal area, Cabudwaaq district),¹²⁹⁴ in the Kaxandaale area (west of Balanbal area, Cabudwaaq district),¹²⁹⁵ in the Shilan area (south of Balanbal area, Cabudwaaq district),¹²⁹⁶ and in Galinsoor city (Cadaado district)¹²⁹⁷.

¹²⁷⁹ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/944, 11 November 2021, [url](#), para. 10

¹²⁸⁰ UNHCR, Somalia – Operational Update (1-31 October 2021), 21 November 2021, [url](#), p. 2; Crisis 24, Somalia: Government forces launch military operation to retake town of Gurieel Oct. 23, 23 October 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁸¹ International Crisis Group, Considering Political Engagement with Al-Shabaab in Somalia, 21 June 2022, [url](#), p. 24, footnote 124

¹²⁸² HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), p. 25; VOA, At Least 20 Killed as Somalia Troops Battle Moderate Islamist Militia, 23 October 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁸³ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/944, 11 November 2021, [url](#), para. 10; Garowe Online, Somalia's PM calls for an immediate end to Galmudug conflict, 2 October 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁸⁴ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 17; UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/944, 11 November 2021, [url](#), para. 10

¹²⁸⁵ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/944, 11 November 2021, [url](#), para. 10; Garowe Online, Somalia's PM calls for an immediate end to Galmudug conflict, 2 October 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁸⁶ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/944, 11 November 2021, [url](#), para. 10; Crisis 24, Somalia: Government forces launch military operation to retake town of Gurieel Oct. 23, 23 October 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁸⁷ VOA, UN: More Than 100,000 Somalis Displaced by Fighting in Central Galmudug Region, 26 October 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁸⁸ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/665, 1 September 2022, [url](#), para. 17

¹²⁸⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁹⁰ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), pp. 16-17

¹²⁹¹ Please note that these examples do not claim to be exhaustive.

¹²⁹² Hiiraan Online, Clan conflict over grazing leaves 20 dead in Galgaduud, 28 August 2022, [url](#); Radio Dalsan, Somali Army intervenes as two militia groups clash in Galgaduud, 28 August 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁹³ Radio Risaala, Ciidamo ku baxay degaan ay ku dagaalameen laba maleeshiyo Beeleed [Troops went to an area where two tribal militias were fighting], 23 May 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁹⁴ VOA, Ten Killed as Rival Clans Clash in Central Somalia, 1 February 2022, [url](#); Keydmedia, Khasaare ka dhashay dagaal ka dhacay bartamaha Soomaaliya [Damage caused by war in central Somalia], 31 January 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁹⁵ SMN, Galmudug intervenes in clan battle in Galgaduud, 13 December 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁹⁶ Radio Risaala, Dagaal khasaaro geystay oo ka dhacay Gobolka Galgaduud [A battle that took place in Galgaduud Region], 5 October 2021, [url](#)

¹²⁹⁷ Keydmedia, Dagaal khasaare xooggan sababay oo ka dhacay Galgaduud [A war caused heavy losses in Galgaduud], 26 August 2021, [url](#)

(c) Recent security incidents and trends

Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), civilian casualties

In the reference period, 182 security incidents, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violent acts against civilians, causing 891 fatalities, were reported in Galgaduud ([Figure 32](#)).¹²⁹⁸

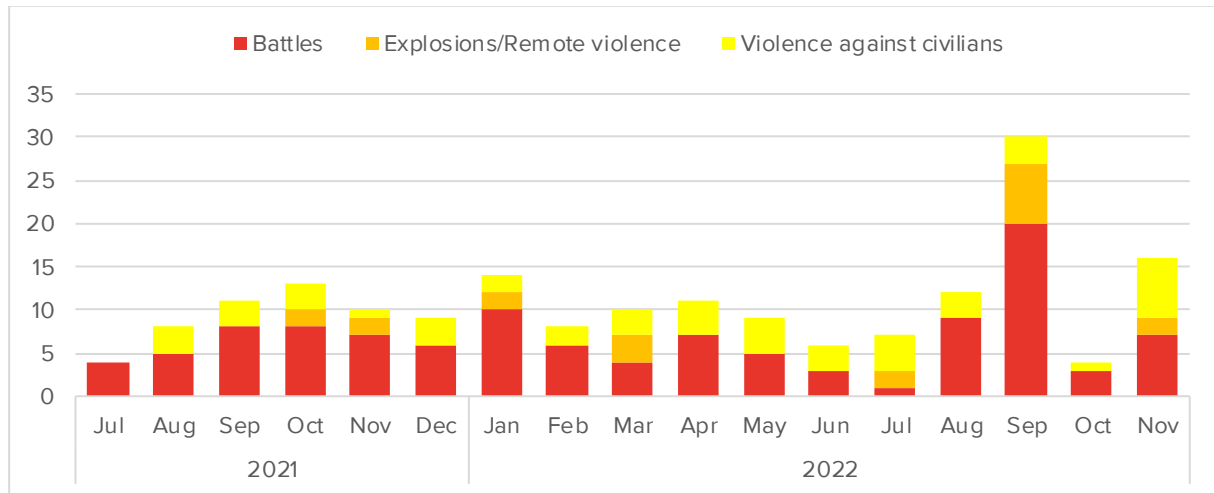


Figure 32. Galgaduud – Evolution of security incidents coded battles, explosion/remote violence and violence against civilians from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹²⁹⁹

At the district level Dhusamareb recorded the most security incidents (85 incidents), followed by Caabudwaaq district (56 incidents) between July 2021 and November 2022 ([Figure 33](#)).¹³⁰⁰

¹²⁹⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹²⁹⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁰⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

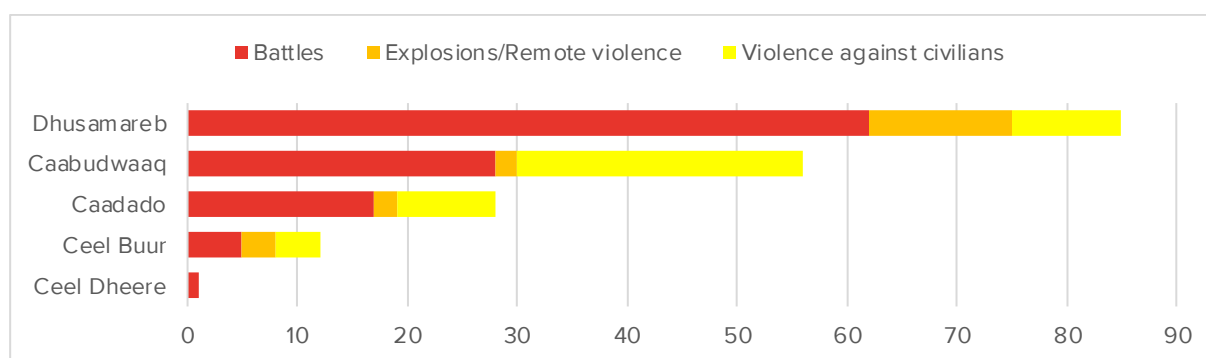


Figure 33. Galgaduud – Breakdown of security incidents per district from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹³⁰¹

For the reference period, ACLED reported Al-Shabaab being involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)¹³⁰² in 83 security incidents (54 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 15 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 14 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in 707 fatalities in Galgaduud administrative region. Somali security forces (military and police forces) were reportedly involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 84 security incidents (76 incidents coded as ‘battles’ and 8 as ‘explosions/remote violence’) resulting in 243 fatalities, while Habr Gedir clan militias or sub-clan militias were reportedly involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 42 security incidents (32 incidents coded as ‘battles’ and 10 as ‘violence against civilians’) causing 81 fatalities.¹³⁰³

While no overall dataset could be found on the number of conflict-related civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) in the region, [Table 11](#) shows the numbers of incidents and estimated fatalities (without distinction as to civilian and non-civilian) in Galgaduud region that were recorded by ACLED between July 2021 and end of November 2022, by type of incident:

Gagaduud	Number of incidents	Number of estimated fatalities
Battles	113	591
Explosions/Remote violence	20	250 ¹³⁰⁴
Violence against civilians	49	50
Total	182	891

Table 11. Galgaduud – number of security incidents and fatalities by type of incident for the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹³⁰⁵

Of the 891 fatalities recorded in Galgaduud between July 2021 and end of November 2022, most (298 fatalities) were reported in Dhusamareb district, ahead of Ceel Buur district (254

¹³⁰¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁰² For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹³⁰³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁰⁴ Please note that this figure is attributed mainly to an airstrike against Al-Shabaab fighters carried out by US forces in cooperation with the SNA on 12 March 2022, reportedly killing 200 Al-Shabaab militants. SMN, At least 200 terrorists killed in Somali army operation, 13 March 2022, [url](#); Airwars, USSOM346, 13 March 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁰⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

fatalities)¹³⁰⁶, Caadado (172 fatalities), Caabudwaaq (162 fatalities), and Ceel Dheere district (5 fatalities). When focusing on incidents coded by ACLED as 'violence against civilians', most of the 49 incidents that caused in total 50 fatalities were reported in Caabudwaaq district (26 incidents and 38 fatalities), followed by Dhusamareb district (10 incidents and 4 fatalities).¹³⁰⁷

Illustrative security incidents with (high) impact on civilians¹³⁰⁸

In Caadado district, Al-Shabaab militants shot and killed six pastoralists in Qalaanqale area and abducted seven individuals in Maarsamage area on 1 September 2022.¹³⁰⁹

On 28 August 2022, clan clashes occurred in the Labagalle area of Cabudwaaq district, killing at least 15 people and injuring 35 others. The clashes were reportedly triggered by disputes over resources; the Somali army intervened and tried to mediate.¹³¹⁰

A car was hit in a landmine explosion near Dhabad town (Caabudwaaq district) on 23 July 2022, killing eight members of a family.¹³¹¹

On 5 August 2021, Al-Shabaab militants shot and killed an 87-year-old at a public square in Ceel Buur district, whom they accused of insulting prophet Mohamed.¹³¹²

Conflict-related displacement

Between July 2021 and November 2022, 246 089 individuals were newly displaced from Galgaduud due to conflict or insecurity, according to the UNHCR PRMN¹³¹³. 94 % (or 232 519 individuals) of this group were displaced within the administrative region, while 13 570 individuals were displaced to other regions, including Bari, Benadir, Hiraan, Lower Juba, Lower Shabelle, and Mudug. In the same period, conflict and insecurity resulted in additional 2 983 individuals arriving from Mudug in Galgaduud. During the reference period, Dhuusamarreeb district was the most affected by this type of displacement, with 167 350 arriving and 176 928 leaving (including movements within the district).¹³¹⁴

As noted by the UN Secretary-General, the above-mentioned clashes between the ASWJ and the SNA alone led to the displacement of over 100 000 people in the Gurieel area in October

¹³⁰⁶ Please note that this figure is attributed mainly to an airstrike against Al-Shabaab fighters carried out by US forces in cooperation with the SNA on 12 March 2022, reportedly killing 200 Al-Shabaab militants. SMN, At least 200 terrorists killed in Somali army operation, 13 March 2022, [url](#); Airwars, USSOM346, 13 March 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁰⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁰⁸ The following is a selection of incidents and does not claim to be representative in any sense. Moreover, please note that security incidents related to clan conflicts do not always receive local media attention and hence might go under-reported in Somalia. Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#)

¹³⁰⁹ Mudug24, Alshabaab oo Dad Xoolo Dhaqata ah Kulaayay Degaano Ka Tirsan Galmudug [Al-Shabaab has killed livestock in several areas of Galmudug], 1 September 2022, [url](#)

¹³¹⁰ Radio Dalsan, Somali Army intervenes as two militia groups clash in Galgaduud, 28 August 2022, [url](#)

¹³¹¹ FTL, Eight Members of a Family Die in an IED Blast in Galgadud, 24 July 2022, [url](#)

¹³¹² Caasimada, Al-Shabaab oo toogasho ku fulisay nin 'aflagaadeeyey' Nabi Maxamed (NNKH) [Al-Shabaab shot dead a man who 'insulted' the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)], 5 August 2021, [url](#)

¹³¹³ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹³¹⁴ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

2021.¹³¹⁵ As of 31 October 2021, UNOCHA reported that 30 % of the displaced had returned to Gurieel town.¹³¹⁶

Other impacts on civilian life

In June 2022, local media reported that Al-Shabaab militants overrun Ceel Buur district hospital and discharged all patients.¹³¹⁷ However, according to another local news article, this was denied by local elders.¹³¹⁸ The hospital was reportedly reopened just days before its takeover by Al-Shabaab, who were 'denying members of the public access to the live-saving amenity'.¹³¹⁹ In March 2022, it was reported that the main hospital in Ceel Dheer district had been closed for more than six months due to orders from Al-Shabaab, leaving residents without any medical services in the district.¹³²⁰ Above-mentioned clashes between the ASWJ and the SNA in the Gurieel area in October 2021 caused destruction of property, including two hospitals.¹³²¹ As of 24 October 2021, UNOCHA reported that Starlin Hospital in Guri Ceel was hit but suffered minimal damage. Nevertheless, the hospital's operations were disrupted as almost half of the medical staff had been displaced. The Hanano hospital in Dhusamareb as well faced a shortage of emergency treatment kits.¹³²²

Between July and September 2021, UNOCHA documented four humanitarian access incidents¹³²³ in Galgaduud region, three in Dhusamareb district and one in Caabudwaaq district; between January and March 2022,¹³²⁴ one incident was documented in the region, specifically in Caadado district¹³²⁵. No such data was available for the period between October and December 2021 and between April and November 2022.

Data accessed through the NRC Eviction Information Portal¹³²⁶ listed no evictions in the Galgaduud region for the period July 2021 to November 2022.¹³²⁷ IDP site verification exercises by the Global CCCM in October 2022 found that of the 40 verified IDP sites in Gurieel, 8 % were classified as having extreme risk of eviction,¹³²⁸ while of the 22 verified IDP sites in Dhusamareb 9 % were classified as having extreme and 5 % as having high risk of

¹³¹⁵ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/944, 11 November 2021, [url](#), para. 10

¹³¹⁶ UNOCHA, Somalia: Flash update on Guri Ceel situation #3 – As of 31 October 2021, 1 November 2021, [url](#)

¹³¹⁷ SONNA, Al-Shabaab terrorists forcefully takeover hospital in El-Bur District, 20 June 2022, cached page from 22 June 2022, [url](#); Goobjoog, Al-Shabaab overruns Elbur district hospital in Galgadud region, 20 June 2022, [url](#)

¹³¹⁸ Caasimada, Daawo: Guddiga maamula isbitaalka Ceelbuur oo si yaab leh u difaacay Shabaab [Watch: The management committee of Elbur hospital surprisingly defended Al-Shabaab], 21 June 2022, [url](#)

¹³¹⁹ Goobjoog, Al-Shabaab overruns Elbur district hospital in Galgadud region, 20 June 2022, [url](#)

¹³²⁰ SMN, Isbitaalkii Degmada Ceel-dheer oo u xiran amar ka soo baxay Al Shabaab [The Eel-dheer District Hospital was closed by order from Al Shabaab], 17 March 2022, [url](#)

¹³²¹ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2021/944, 11 November 2021, [url](#), para. 10; UNOCHA, Somalia: Flash update on the situation in Guri Ceel, Galmudug #1 - As of 24 October 2021, 24 October 2021, [url](#), p. 1; Goobjoog, Senior military commanders among about 30 dead in Guriel fighting, 24 October 2022, [url](#)

¹³²² UNOCHA, Somalia: Flash update on the situation in Guri Ceel, Galmudug #1 - As of 24 October 2021, 24 October 2021, [url](#), p. 1

¹³²³ Such incidents include the following types: 'ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance', 'ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance' and 'armed hostilities preventing access'.

UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#)

¹³²⁴ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#)

¹³²⁵ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 1 (January - March 2022), 17 July 2022, [url](#)

¹³²⁶ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹³²⁷ NRC, Eviction Information Portal, Data Sets, Somalia – July 2021-November 2022, as of 9 December 2022, [url](#)

¹³²⁸ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Guriel Verified IDP Sites – October 2022, 17 October 2022, [url](#)

eviction¹³²⁹. Additional IDP site verification exercises were conducted in April 2022 indicating that that of the 7 verified IDP sites in Cadaado, 26 % were classified as having extreme risk of eviction,¹³³⁰ while of the 24 verified IDP sites in Cabudwaaq, 21 % were classified as having extreme and 21 % as having high risk of eviction.¹³³¹ The DSA conducted by the REACH and the CCCM Cluster in November and December 2021 indicated that the ‘proportion of assessed sites where [key informants] reported perceiving a very high risk of forced eviction’ was 0 % in Dhusamareb and Caabudwaaq district and 50 % in Cadaado district.¹³³²

2.5.2. Mudug

(a) Background

The Mudug region is divided between Galmudug and Puntland, with Puntland controlling the northern half of the region.¹³³³ Mudug region shares internal borders with Nugal and Galgaduud regions, an international border with Ethiopia and borders the Indian ocean. It consists of five districts: Xarardheere, Hobyo, Gaalkacyo, Galdogob and Jariiban.¹³³⁴ Mudug’s capital, Gaalkacyo, situated in the western part of the region, is also divided, with Puntland controlling the northern section of the town and Galmudug the southern.¹³³⁵

According to Joakim Gundel, in the south, Mudug is mainly inhabited by the Saad, a Habr Gedir (Hawiye) sub-clan, which is also the dominant clan in the southern area. A small enclave of Qubeys, of the Dir clan family, is also to be found in this part of the region. The north of Mudug is mainly inhabited by the Omar Mohamoud (or Omar Mahmud), a Majerteen (Darod) sub-clan, which is the dominant clan in the area. Moreover, cross-border clan groups such as the Beidyahan (mainly inside the Ethiopian region), or the Laylkase of the Ogadeen-Harti group (mainly around the village of Galdogob) are also present. Along Mudug’s coast there is a small community of Agoon, of the Dir clan family, in Gaalkacyo Dir minority clan groups are present.¹³³⁶

A December 2022 IPC document listed the population of Mudug as 1 317 403 in 2022.¹³³⁷ UNOCHA estimated the population of Mudug in 2021 at 1 244 027 (including 182 324 men, 171 140 women, 840 500 children and 50 063 elderly people).¹³³⁸ The 2014 Population

¹³²⁹ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Dhuusamarreeb Verified IDP Sites – October 2022, 17 October 2022, [url](#)

¹³³⁰ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Cadaado Verified IDP Sites – April 2022, 30 April 2022, [url](#)

¹³³¹ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Cabudwaaq Verified IDP Sites – April 2022, 30 April 2022, [url](#)

¹³³² REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Galgaduud Region, March 2022 [url](#), pp. 4; 8; 12

¹³³³ HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), p. 15, footnote 65; UNOCHA, Drought Response And Famine Prevention Plan Somalia, 24 June 2022, [url](#), p. 16

¹³³⁴ MSF, Somalia – General Reference Map, 11 October 2022, [url](#); UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#)

¹³³⁵ Weingärtner, L. et al., Obstacles To And Opportunities For Anticipatory Action In Somalia, SPARC, May 2022, [url](#), p. 3

¹³³⁶ Gundel, J., interview, 7 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), pp. 115-116. Joakim Gundel is a scholar, author, and Somali clans expert with over 30 years of academic and field experience (Somalia and the wider Horn of Africa). He now works as independent consultant.

¹³³⁷ IPC, Nearly 8.3 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes [Table], 13 December 2022, [url](#), p. 4

¹³³⁸ UNOCHA, Somalia – 2021 Population Figures and Disaggregation, 7 December 2021, [url](#)

Estimation Survey conducted by UNFPA and Somali authorities¹³³⁹ estimated that the population¹³⁴⁰ of Mudug was 717 863, of whom 381 493 lived in urban areas, 79 752 in rural areas, and 185 736 were nomads.¹³⁴¹ For figures on IDPs, see subsection below on conflict-related displacement.

(b) Actors' presence and conflict dynamics

Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence (along with other actors)

Southern Mudug (Galmudug state)

According to [Map 4. Somalia - Approximate Territorial Control](#), as of 30 November 2022, Al-Shabaab reportedly controlled the southeasternmost part of Xarardheere district and a narrow section in the south of Hobyo district along the coast, including the town of Xarardheere.¹³⁴² Further north, control over the area west and northwest of Hobyo town, was reported to be mixed or unclear, as was an area east of the regional capital Gaalkacyo along the Galmudug-Puntland border. In addition, it was reported that Al-Shabaab controlled the town of Baadweyne¹³⁴³ while the control of Amara¹³⁴⁴ and Qey'ad (or Qeycad)¹³⁴⁵ was reported to be mixed between Al-Shabaab and the ATMIS/Federal government coalition.¹³⁴⁶ Another map by Political Geography Now dated 30 June 2021 shows identical territories of mixed/unclear control and control by Al-Shabaab in Mudug region.¹³⁴⁷ According to a Somali security expert interviewed in June 2021, various clans living in the southern Mudug area (mainly the Saad clan) were resisting Al-Shabaab's expansion but appeared to be 'overwhelmed'.¹³⁴⁸

¹³³⁹ According to the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) of 2020, the 2014 Population Estimation Survey of Somalia 'is the most recent nationwide population estimation exercise undertaken in Somalia.' Somalia, NBS, The Somali Health and Demographic Survey 2020, 30 April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

¹³⁴⁰ As of 2022, the 2014 estimates remain the figures used in the latest official publications of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). See e.g., Somalia, Somalia Data Portal, Population – Dashboards, 1 March 2022, [url](#); Somalia, NBS, Galmudug Report 2021, 23 May 2022, [url](#), p. 2

¹³⁴¹ UNFPA, Population Estimation Survey 2014, Somalia, October 2014, [url](#), p. 31

¹³⁴² Xarardheere (or Harardheere) town was described as Al-Shabaab 'stronghold' in a Somali media article dated October 2021 and as 'long-time al Shabaab stronghold' in a September 2022 article by the Critical Threats Project at the American Enterprise Institute. Halbeeg, PM Roble hails Puntland and Galmudug war on Al-Shabaab, 17 October 2021, [url](#); Critical Threats Project at the American Enterprise Institute, Africa File: Clan Uprising Bolsters anti-al Shabaab Offensive in Central Somalia, 15 September 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁴³ Between August and October 2021, local media outlets mentioned repeated shifts of control between Al-Shabaab and the national security forces in the town of Baadweyne. Keydmedia, Kooxda Al-Shabaab oo duullaan ku ah degaanka Wisil [Al-Shabaab attack in Wisil area], 31 October 2021, [url](#); Goobjoog, Amara, Ba'adweyne towns fall back to Al-Shabaab after forces' pull out, 26 August 2021, [url](#)

¹³⁴⁴ Between August and October 2021, local media outlets mentioned repeated shifts of control between Al-Shabaab and the national security forces in the strategic town of Amara. Keydmedia, Kooxda Al-Shabaab oo duullaan ku ah degaanka Wisil [Al-Shabaab attack in Wisil area], 31 October 2021, [url](#); Halbeeg, PM Roble hails Puntland and Galmudug war on Al-Shabaab, 17 October 2021, [url](#); Goobjoog, Amara, Ba'adweyne towns fall back to Al-Shabaab after forces' pull out, 26 August 2021, [url](#); BBC Monitoring Africa, BBCM Africa Watchlist for 26 August, 26 August 2021

¹³⁴⁵ Keydmedia reported that Al-Shabaab's forces had invaded the area around Qey'ad at the end of October 2021 after the National Security Forces had vacated the town in early October 2021. Keydmedia, Kooxda Al-Shabaab oo duullaan ku ah degaanka Wisil [Al-Shabaab attack in Wisil area], 31 October 2021, [url](#)

¹³⁴⁶ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

¹³⁴⁷ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 June 2022, n.a., non-public source

¹³⁴⁸ Somali security expert I, interview, 20 and 27 June 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 116. Expert I is a leading Somali security and intelligence expert based in Somalia, with extensive national and international consulting experience.

Northern Mudug (Puntland state)

According to [Map 4. Somalia - Approximate Territorial Control](#), as of 30 November 2022, the control over a narrow strip east of the regional capital Gaalkacyo along the Galmudug-Puntland border was reported to be mixed or unclear between Al-Shabaab and government forces.¹³⁴⁹ Another map by Political Geography Now dated 30 June 2021 shows identical territories of mixed/unclear control in Mudug region.¹³⁵⁰

For more detailed information regarding various actors and their presence in Mudug up until 30 June 2021, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

Conflict dynamics

Southern Mudug (Galmudug state)

Throughout the reference period, fighting occurred between Al-Shabaab and Somali security forces, including local pro-government forces¹³⁵¹, and *Danab*¹³⁵² and *Darwish*¹³⁵³ forces¹³⁵⁴, resulting in control of some areas shifting, sometimes repeatedly.¹³⁵⁵ In the reference period, clan rivalries were reported in southern Mudug, which reportedly erupted over water resource disputes and were fuelled by Al-Shabaab, which was claimed to exploit climate impacts.¹³⁵⁶

Northern Mudug (Puntland state)

According to the 2021 Annual Report of the Heritage Institute for Policy Studies (HIPS) northern Mudug 'experienced its share of inter-clan violence'.¹³⁵⁷ As stated by a local conflict expert in July 2021, Mudug's northern part is affected by long-standing Hawiye/Habr Gedir

¹³⁴⁹ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source;

PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 June 2022, n.a., non-public source

¹³⁵⁰ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 June 2022, n.a., non-public source

¹³⁵¹ SD, Al-Shabaab burns down civilian houses in Mudug region, 30 March 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁵² The Somali *Danab* ('lightning') Brigade is a US-sponsored Special operations force, that is considered Somalia's 'most professional fighting force'. Pulitzer Center, The Danab Brigade: Somalia's Elite, US-Sponsored Special Ops Force, 11 August 2020, [url](#)

¹³⁵³ Galmudug's Darwish Force forms part of the Federal Police Force and is trained and supported by international actors, including the European Union Training Mission (EUTM Somalia) or the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). SJS, Galmudug's Darwish forces raid independent local media station, beat and detain journalist in Abudwak, 2 February 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁵⁴ Radio Risaala, Ciidanka DANAB oo degaano kala wareegay Al-Shabaab [DANAB forces have taken over areas from Al-Shabaab], 19 April 2022, [url](#); SD, Galmudug forces kill Al-Shabaab members in planned operation, 10 April 2022, [url](#); BBC Monitoring Africa, BBCM Africa Watchlist for 3 August, 3 August 2021

¹³⁵⁵ Radio Risaala, Ciidanka DANAB oo degaano kala wareegay Al-Shabaab [DANAB forces have taken over areas from Al-Shabaab], 19 April 2022, [url](#); Keydmedia, Kooxda Al-Shabaab oo duullaan ku ah degaanka Wisil [Al-Shabaab attack in Wisil area], 31 October 2021, [url](#); Goobjoog, Amara, Ba'adweyne towns fall back to Al-Shabaab after forces' pull out, 26 August 2021, [url](#); BBC Monitoring Africa, BBCM Africa Watchlist for 26 August, 26 August 2021

¹³⁵⁶ Bareedo Platform, How Rural Communities In Galmudug And Puntland Are Going To Overcome Water-Based Conflicts, 16 April 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁵⁷ HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), p. 20

versus Darood/Majeerteen and Darood/Laylkase contentions, which often spill over from the rural areas to Gaalkacyo.¹³⁵⁸

(c) Recent security incidents and trends

Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), civilian casualties

In the reference period, 90 security incidents, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence and violent acts against civilians, causing 358 fatalities, were reported in Mudug ([Figure 34](#)).¹³⁵⁹

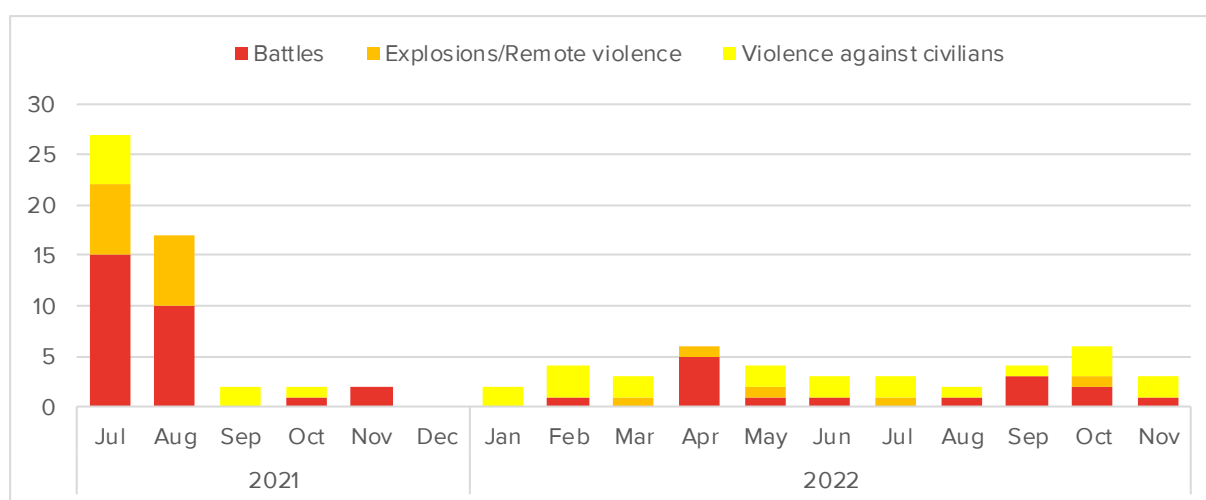


Figure 34. Mudug – Evolution of security incidents coded battles, explosion/remote violence and violence against civilians from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹³⁶⁰

At the district level Gaalkacyo, recorded the most security incidents (34 incidents), followed by Hobyo district (26 incidents) between July 2021 and November 2022 ([Figure 35](#)).¹³⁶¹

¹³⁵⁸ Local conflict VI, interview, 22 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 117. Expert VI is a Garowe based Somali expert on local clan conflicts with long-standing experience in conflict prevention and analysis and works as a consultant for national and international organisations.

¹³⁵⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#).

¹³⁶⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#).

¹³⁶¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#).

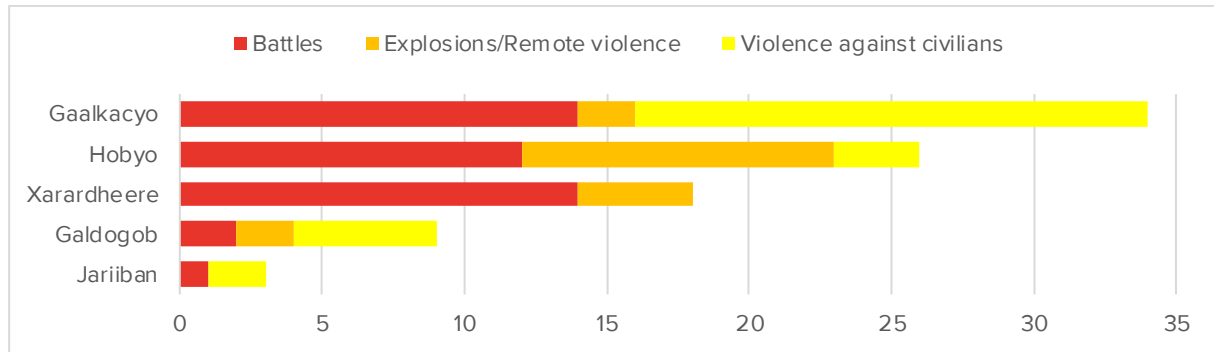


Figure 35. Mudug – Breakdown of security incidents per district from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹³⁶²

For the reference period, ACLED reported Al-Shabaab being involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)¹³⁶³ in 45 security incidents (27 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 15 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 3 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in 305 fatalities in Mudug administrative region. Somali security forces (military and police forces) were reportedly involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 46 security incidents (32 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 9 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 5 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in 282 fatalities.¹³⁶⁴

While no overall dataset could be found on the number of conflict-related civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) in the region, [Table 12](#) shows the numbers of incidents and estimated fatalities (without distinction as to civilian and non-civilian) in Galgaduud region that were recorded by ACLED between July 2021 and end of November 2022, by type of incident:

Mudug	Number of incidents	Number of estimated fatalities
Battles	43	236
Explosions/Remote violence	19	82
Violence against civilians	28	40
Total	90	358

Table 12. Mudug – number of security incidents and fatalities by type of incident for the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹³⁶⁵

Of the 358 fatalities recorded in Galgaduud between July 2021 and end of November 2022, most were reported in Hobyo district (152 fatalities) ahead of Xarardheere district (151 fatalities), Gaalkacyo (35 fatalities), Galdogob (15 fatalities), and Jariiban district (5 fatalities). When focusing on incidents coded by ACLED as ‘violence against civilians’, most of the 28

¹³⁶² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁶³ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹³⁶⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁶⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)



incidents that caused in total 40 fatalities were reported in Gaalkacyo district (18 incidents and 20 fatalities), followed by Galdogob district (5 incidents and 11 fatalities).¹³⁶⁶

Illustrative security incidents with (high) impact on civilians¹³⁶⁷

On 13 September 2022, civilians were killed and injured when Somali *Danab* forces opened fire along the road connecting Gaalkacyo town to Dagaari area (Gaalkacyo district).¹³⁶⁸

On 20 July 2022, a car carrying civilians was hit by a landmine explosion in Galdogob district, killing the driver and injuring others.¹³⁶⁹

On 26 March 2022, Al-Shabaab militants reportedly kidnapped seven herdsman and their livestock in the Barag Isse area (Hobyo district).¹³⁷⁰

In July and August 2021, two landmine explosions were recorded in the vicinity of Baadweyne (Hobyo district): On 9 July 2021, a landmine explosion destroyed a public transport vehicle on the outskirts of Baadweyne village, killing at least two civilians and injuring many others.¹³⁷¹ On 10 August 2021, at least seven people died and many others were injured (among them women and children) after a rickshaw hit a landmine in Amara.¹³⁷²

Conflict-related displacement

Between July 2021 and November 2022, 16 513 individuals were newly displaced from Mudug due to conflict or insecurity, according to the UNHCR PRMN.¹³⁷³ Furthermore, 76 % (or 12 613 individuals) of this group were displaced within the administrative region, while 3 900 individuals were displaced to Bari, Benadir, and Galgaduug. In the same period, conflict and insecurity resulted in additional 20 individuals arriving from Galgaduud and Hiraan in Mudug. During the reporting period, Gaalkacyo and Hobyo districts were the most affected by this

¹³⁶⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁶⁷ The following is a selection of incidents and does not claim to be representative in any sense. Moreover, please note that according to Ken Menkhaus security incidents related to clan conflicts do not always receive local media attention and hence might go under-reported in Somalia. Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#)

¹³⁶⁸ Caasimada, Ciidamada Danab oo xalay 'dhimasho iyo dhaawac ka geystay' Gaalkacyo [Danab forces last night 'caused death and injury' to Gaalkacyo], 13 September 2022, [url](#); Radio Risaala, Dhimasho iyo dhaawac ka dhashay rasaas ay fureen Ciidamo katirsan DANAB [Death and injury caused by firing by DANAB troops], 13 September 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁶⁹ Radio Dalsan, Gaari Ay Saarnaayeen Dad Shacab Ah Oo Miino Kula Qaraxday Degaan Ka Tirsan Mudug [A Car Carrying Civilians Exploded With A Mine In An Area Of Mudug], 20 July 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁷⁰ Horseed Media, Al-Shabaab oo dad xoolo dhaqato ah ka afdubtay gobolka Mudug [Al-Shabaab abducted herdsman from Mudug region], 26 March 2022, [url](#); Radio Risaala, Shabaab oo la sheegay in xoolo iyo dadkii watay ay afdubteen [It is said that Al-Shabaab abducted animals and the people who drove them], 26 March 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁷¹ Radio Risaala, Gaari ay saarnaayeen Shacab oo miino kula qaraxday Mudug [A car carrying Shaacab exploded with a mine in Mudug], 9 July 2021, [url](#); BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Kulmiye News 1700 gmt 9 Jul 21, 12 July 2021

¹³⁷² BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Kulmiye News 1700 gmt 10 Aug 21, 13 August 2021

¹³⁷³ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.



type of displacement, with 10 433 individuals arriving in Gaalkacyo district and 9 672 individuals leaving Hobyo district (including movements within the district).¹³⁷⁴

Other impacts on civilian life

Between July and September 2021, UNOCHA documented three humanitarian access incidents¹³⁷⁵ in Mudug region, all three in Gaalkacyo district;¹³⁷⁶ between January and March 2022, four such incidents were documented in the region, two each in the districts of Gaalkacyo and Galdogob¹³⁷⁷. No such data was available for the period between October and December 2021 and between April and November 2022.

Data accessed through the NRC Eviction Information Portal¹³⁷⁸ recorded 246 individuals being forcibly evicted¹³⁷⁹ in the Mudug region (90 in Gaalkacyo district, 156 in Galdogob district) for the period July 2021 to November 2022.¹³⁸⁰ Joint IDP site verification exercises by the Global CCCM in August 2022 found that of the 74 verified IDP sites in south Gaalkacyo, 30 % were classified as having extreme and high risk of eviction,¹³⁸¹ while of the 2 verified IDP sites in Hobyo 0 % were classified as having high risk of eviction¹³⁸². Another IDP site verification exercise conducted in March 2022 in Galdogob district reported that of the 7 verified IDP sites 0 % were classified as having high risk of eviction.¹³⁸³

In March 2022, it was reported that Al-Shabaab militants set fire to houses in Adale district, displacing their residents.¹³⁸⁴ For the period between 6 November 2021 and 31 January 2022, the United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) referred to a case of conflict-related rape in Dagaari village (Gaalkacyo district) verified by UNSOM.¹³⁸⁵

2.5.3. Galmudug – Checkpoints and road security

Based on information provided by an international expert the following main corridors in Galmudug were identified:

- **Gurieel – Dhusamareb – Cadaado – Gaalkacyo.** Apart from districts fully controlled by al-Shabaab, the situation on the roads in the north of Galmudug, from Gurieel to Gaalkacyo is

¹³⁷⁴ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁷⁵ Such incidents include the following types: ‘ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance’, ‘ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance’ and ‘armed hostilities preventing access’. UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), p. 1

¹³⁷⁶ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), p. 1

¹³⁷⁷ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 1 (January - March 2022), 17 July 2022, [url](#), p. 1

¹³⁷⁸ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹³⁷⁹ NRC defines ‘forced evictions’ as the ‘removal against their will of people from their homes and/or land which they occupy, without any form of legal or other protection’. NRC, An Unnecessary Burden: Forced Evictions and Covid-19, 1 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1

¹³⁸⁰ NRC, Eviction Information Portal, Data Sets, Somalia – July 2021-November 2022, as of 9 December 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁸¹ CCCM Cluster Somalia, South Gaalkacyo Verified IDP Sites – August 2022, 28 August 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁸² CCCM Cluster Somalia, Hobyo Verified IDP Sites – August 2022, 28 August 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁸³ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Galdogob Verified IDP Sites – March 2022, 29 March 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁸⁴ SD, Al-Shabaab burns down civilian houses in Mudug region, 30 March 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁸⁵ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 62

'relatively good.' There is some difficulty of access, less due to AS and more due to complex political tensions between several clans along these routes including political and clan-based issues, for example, the presence of Ahlu Sunna Wal-Jama'ah (ASWJ) elements. With regards to ATMIS/AMISOM presence, there is a small AMISOM footprint in Galmudug in Dhusamareb.

- **Galkacyo – Hobyo.** The situation on the road from Gaalkacyo direction south to Hobyo has improved in part because of recent military operations that have curtailed al-Shabaab influence in the Wisil area. As with Hirshabelle, due to the ongoing nature on the operations were taking place in the area, it is unclear how sustainable recent government gains will be in the longer term.¹³⁸⁶

On 19 September 2022, mutinous regional troops blocked the main road between Gaalkacyo and Mogadishu, as well as the road to the strategic coastal town of Hobyo, due to disagreements over the allocation of municipal offices in Gaalkacyo among different clans.¹³⁸⁷

In April 2022, Somali government forces and paramilitary troops reportedly conducted a massive clearance operation of illegal security checkpoints along the main road between the towns of Mataban and Gurieel.¹³⁸⁸ Also in April 2022, it was reported, that Al-Shabaab checkpoints were cleared by special forces of the Somali government in the south of Dhusamareb district¹³⁸⁹ and by regional paramilitary troops in several locations south of Mudug region.¹³⁹⁰ In January 2022, government security forces backed by regional paramilitary troops reportedly seized Al-Shabaab checkpoints in southern Galgaduud region.¹³⁹¹ During the reference period, checkpoints in Galmudug state had reportedly been seized by protesting militias,¹³⁹² protesting soldiers,¹³⁹³ by clan members¹³⁹⁴ or clan militias.¹³⁹⁵

¹³⁸⁶ International expert, email, 11 December 2022

¹³⁸⁷ SG, Mutinous troops close roads in central Somalia's Galkayo town, 19 September 2022, [url](#)

¹³⁸⁸ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Risala News 1600gmt 12 Apr 22, 15 April 2022

¹³⁸⁹ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Risala News 1600 gmt 19 Apr 22, 22 April 2022

¹³⁹⁰ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somali's Radio Mogadishu News 1700 gmt 15 Apr 22, 19 April 2022

¹³⁹¹ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Kulmiye News 1700 gmt 26 Jan 22, 2 February 2022

¹³⁹² BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Risala News 1600 gmt 23 June 22, 29 June 2022

¹³⁹³ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Kulmiye News 1700 gmt 28 Sep 21, 29 September 2021

¹³⁹⁴ BBC Monitoring Africa, Program Summary of Somalia's Universal TV news 1700 gmt 27 Sept, 28 September 2022

¹³⁹⁵ BBC Monitoring Africa, Programme Summary of Somalia's Radio Simba News 1000gmt 28 Sep 22, 27 October 2022

2.6. Puntland

2.6.1. Nugal

(a) Background

Nugal region shares internal borders with the regions of Bari, Sool and Mudug, has an international border with Ethiopia and borders the Indian ocean. It consists of three districts: Garowe, Burtinle and Eyl. The region's capital is Garowe.¹³⁹⁶

According to Somalia clan expert Joakim Gundel, interviewed in July 2021, the main clans inhabiting Nugal region are the Omar Mahmud and the Issa Mahmud, both belonging to the Darood-Harti group. The Omar Mahmud clan is dominant in the southern part of Nugal, while members of the Issa Mahmud clan inhabit central Nugal, the area in, around, and north of Garowe, as well as Eyl on the coast. However, the border between the clan areas is described as fluid. Near the city of Eyl, the smaller Awrtable clan is found.¹³⁹⁷ For additional details on Garowe see EASO COI report on [Somalia: Key socio-economic indicators \(September 2021\)](#), chapter on Garowe.¹³⁹⁸

A December 2022 IPC document listed the population of Nugal as 572 139 in 2022.¹³⁹⁹ UNOCHA estimated the population of Nugal in 2021 at 534 574 (including 91 611 men, 87 990 women, 329 363 children, and 25 610 elderly people).¹⁴⁰⁰ The 2014 Population Estimation Survey conducted by UNFPA and Somali authorities¹⁴⁰¹ estimated the population¹⁴⁰² of Nugal at 392 698, of whom 138 929 people lived in urban areas, 31 047 in rural areas, and 213 227 were nomads.¹⁴⁰³ For figures on IDPs, see subsection below on conflict-related displacement.

(b) Actors' presence and conflict dynamics

Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence (along with other actors)

[Map 4. Somalia - Approximate Territorial Control](#) shows no Al-Shabaab presence in Nugal as of 30 November 2022. According to the map, the region, including the towns of Eyl and Garowe, were controlled by Puntland's autonomous forces.¹⁴⁰⁴

¹³⁹⁶ MSF, Somalia – General Reference Map, 11 October 2022, [url](#); UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#)

¹³⁹⁷ Gundel, J., interview, 7 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), pp. 122-123

¹³⁹⁸ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Key socio-economic indicators, September 2021, [url](#)

¹³⁹⁹ IPC, Nearly 8.3 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes [Table], 13 December 2022, [url](#), p. 4

¹⁴⁰⁰ UNOCHA, Somalia – 2021 Population Figures and Disaggregation, 7 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴⁰¹ According to the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) of 2020, the 2014 Population Estimation Survey of Somalia 'is the most recent nationwide population estimation exercise undertaken in Somalia.' Somalia, NBS, The Somali Health and Demographic Survey 2020, 30 April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

¹⁴⁰² As of 2022, the 2014 estimates remain the figures used in the latest official publications of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). See e.g., Somalia, Somalia Data Portal, Population – Dashboards, 1 March 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁰³ UNFPA, Population Estimation Survey 2014, Somalia, October 2014, [url](#), p. 31

¹⁴⁰⁴ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

In September 2022, however, the police commander of Nugal region, General Hussein Ali Mohamud, warned of planned Al-Shabaab attacks in several cities, including Garowe, and added that Al-Shabaab was trying to recruit civilians in Garowe.¹⁴⁰⁵ The same month, new Puntland army (Dervish) and navy forces were reportedly deployed in coastal areas of Mudug and Nugal to prevent Al-Shabaab from entering the mountains of Bari and Sanaag regions in the north.¹⁴⁰⁶

For more detailed information regarding various actors and their presence in Nugal up until 30 June 2021, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

Conflict dynamics

An expert on clans and access to justice in Somalia, interviewed in July 2021, noted that Nugal region is almost completely dominated by the Issa Mahmud.¹⁴⁰⁷ According to the same expert the region is 'characterized by stability and security',¹⁴⁰⁸ while another expert indicated that no major clan conflicts was on-going as of July 2021.¹⁴⁰⁹ Smaller tensions between members of the Dhulbahante and the Issa Mahmud/Majeerteen sub-clans take place near Garowe, however, these are usually solved with the intervention of elders.¹⁴¹⁰ In its annual report, HIPS noted that Nugal region experienced inter-clan violence in 2021.¹⁴¹¹

In early January 2022, clashes between tribal militias in the Saahmaygaag and Sanga Jabiye areas of Nugal and Sool regions were reported. Between 6 and 20¹⁴¹² people were reportedly killed and several others injured.¹⁴¹³ The longstanding dispute had re-erupted in December 2021¹⁴¹⁴ and was resolved after a two-month long mediation process, involving elders and

¹⁴⁰⁵ Hiiraan Online, Puntland police issues public warning of Al Shabaab attacks, 11 September 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁰⁶ Puntland Times, DEG-DEG: Puntland oo ciidammo ku daabushay xeebaha gobalka Mudug & heegan culus [URGENT: Puntland has deployed troops on the coast of Mudug region & heavy alert], 25 September 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁰⁷ Clan and access to justice expert VII, interview, 26 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 123. Expert VII is a Somali expert on clan and access to justice. Based in Somalia he is a scholar and a community development practitioner.

¹⁴⁰⁸ Clan and access to justice expert VII, interview, 26 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 123

¹⁴⁰⁹ Local conflict expert VI, interview, 22 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 123

¹⁴¹⁰ Clan and access to justice expert VII, interview, 26 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 123

¹⁴¹¹ HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), p. 20

¹⁴¹² BBC News Somali, Dagaalka Saax-maygaag: Wax ka ogow dagaalka Sool iyo Nugaal ee lagu dilay dad ka badan 20 qof iyo waxa la isku hayo [Battle of Saah-Migaag: Learn more about the Sool and Nugal war that killed more than 20 people and the conflict], 3 January 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴¹³ Radio Risaala, Faah-faahin ka soo baxaysa dagaal beeleed ka socda goballada Nugaal iyo Sool [Details emerging from a tribal war in Nugal and Sool regions], 2 January 2022, [url](#); Radio Risaala, Dagaal geystay dhimasho & dhaawac oo ka dhacay Gobolka Nugaal [A war that caused death and injury in Nugal Region], 2 January 2022, [url](#); Qaranimo, Faah-faahin ka soo baxaysa dagaal beeleed ka socda goballada Nugaal iyo Sool [Details emerging from a tribal war in Nugal and Sool regions], 2 January 2022, [url](#); SG, Somaliland President Holds Talks With Puntland Leader Over Deadly Clashes On Border Area, 3 January 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴¹⁴ Hussein, A. M., The mediation of clan conflict in Saah-Maygaag and Sange-jebiye concludes with peace agreement, 10 April 2022, [url](#)

government officials, in April 2022.¹⁴¹⁵ However, elders in Sool region reportedly rejected the decision of the involved peace committee.¹⁴¹⁶

For more detailed information regarding clan disputes and conflict up until 30 June 2021, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

(c) Recent security incidents and trends

Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), civilian casualties

In the reference period, ACLED reported 21 security incidents in Nugal region, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violent acts against civilians, causing a total of 11 fatalities ([Figure 36](#)).¹⁴¹⁷

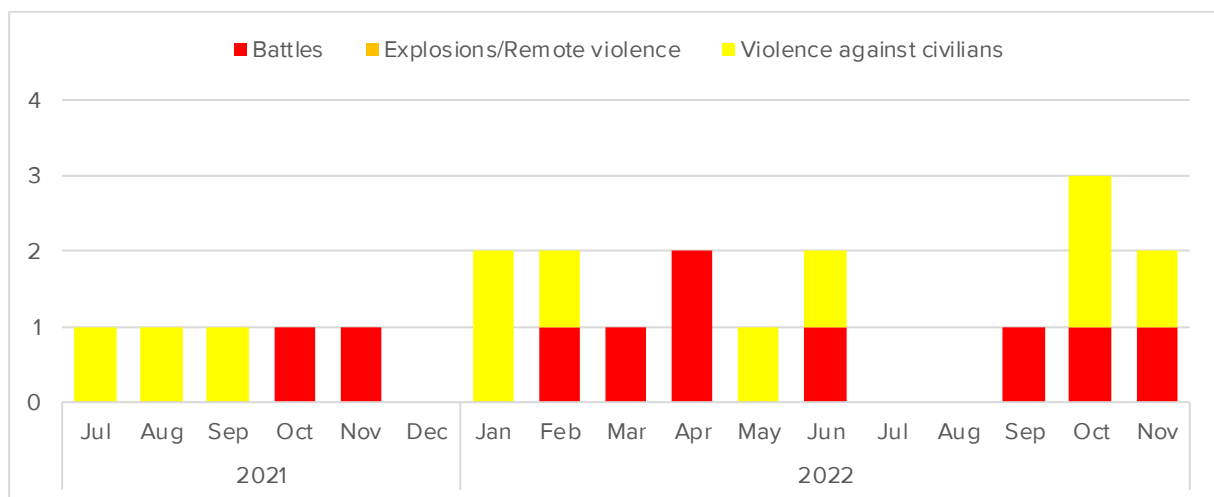


Figure 36. Nugal – Evolution of security incidents coded battles, explosion/remote violence and violence against civilians from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁴¹⁸

With the exception of two incidents (reported in Eyl and Burtinle districts), all security incidents recorded between July 2021 and November 2022 occurred in Garowe district ([Figure 37](#)).¹⁴¹⁹

¹⁴¹⁵ Horseed Media, Munaasabadda gunaanadka nabadeynta Collaadii Saax-maygaag iyo Sangajabiye [The conclusion of the peace process between Saah-maygaag and Sangajabiye], 7 April 2022, [url](#); Hussein, A. M., The mediation of clan conflict in Saah-Maygaag and Sange-jebiye concludes with peace agreement, 10 April 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴¹⁶ Puntland Post, Odayaasha degmada Boocame "Xuduudka Gobolka Sool waa Birta Dheer iyo Rabaable" [Elders of Boocame district "The border of Sool region is long and flexible"], 8 April 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴¹⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴¹⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴¹⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

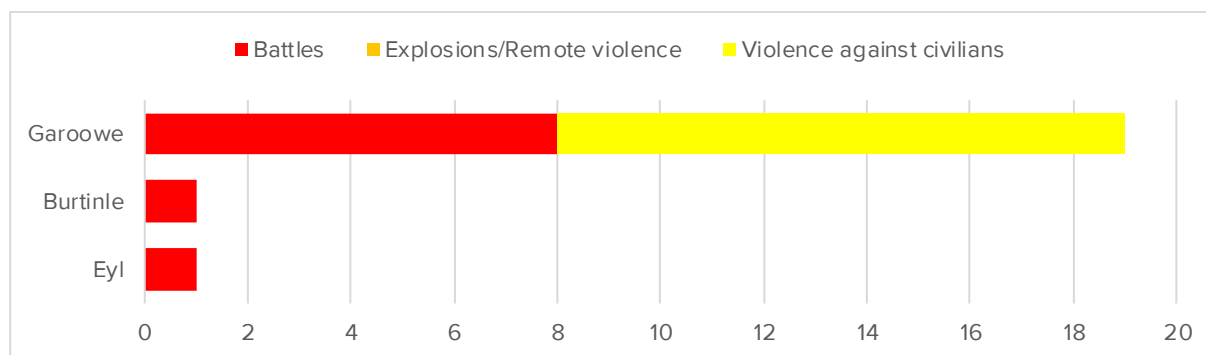


Figure 37. Nugal – Breakdown of security incidents per district from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁴²⁰

For the reference period, ACLED reported Somali security forces (Puntland military and police forces) being involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)¹⁴²¹ in 14 security incidents (all coded as ‘battles’) resulting in 6 fatalities, while various clan militias or unidentified armed groups were involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 13 security incidents (of which 8 were coded as ‘battles’ (4 fatalities) and 5 were coded as ‘violence against civilians’ (with 3 fatalities)).¹⁴²²

While no overall dataset could be found on the number of conflict-related civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) in the region, [Table 13](#) shows the numbers of incidents and estimated fatalities (without distinction as to civilian and non-civilian) in Nugal region that were recorded by ACLED between July 2021 and end of September 2022, by type of incident:

Nugal	Number of incidents	Number of estimated fatalities
Battles	10	5
Explosions/Remote violence	0	0
Violence against civilians	11	6
Total	21	11

Table 13. Nugal – number of security incidents and fatalities by type of incident for the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁴²³

Of the 11 fatalities recorded in Nugal between July 2021 and the end of November 2022, all but 1 (recorded in Burtinle district) were reported in Garowe district. When focusing on incidents coded by ACLED as ‘violence against civilians’, all of the 11 incidents were reported in Garowe district and caused a total of 6 fatalities.¹⁴²⁴

¹⁴²⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴²¹ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁴²² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴²³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴²⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

Illustrative security incidents with (high) impact on civilians¹⁴²⁵

In April 2022, an armed group attacked the district high school of Eyl, where preparations for the election of the mayor and the deputy of the district were ongoing. One person was reportedly injured.¹⁴²⁶

Conflict-related displacement

Between July 2021 and November 2022, 552 individuals were newly displaced from Nugal (all from Garoowe district) due to conflict or insecurity, according to the UNHCR PRMN.¹⁴²⁷ 67 % (or 369 individuals) of this group were displaced within the administrative region, while the remaining 33 % (183 individuals) were displaced to Bay and Sool regions. Regarding displacement to Nugal, no individuals arrived in Nugal from other regions. During the reference period, Burtinle district was the district most affected by this type of displacement, with 369 recorded arrivals.¹⁴²⁸

Other impacts on civilian life (e.g. infrastructure damage, evictions)

UNOCHA documented no humanitarian access incidents¹⁴²⁹ in Nugal region between July and September 2021 and between January and March 2022.¹⁴³⁰ No data was available for the period between October and December 2021 and between April and November 2022.

Data accessed through the NRC Eviction Information Portal¹⁴³¹ recorded 7 295 individuals being forcibly evicted¹⁴³² in the Nugal region (all within Garowe town) for the period from July 2021 to November 2022.¹⁴³³

IDP site verification exercises by the Global CCCM in March and May 2022 found that of the four verified IDP sites in Burtinle, none were classified as having extreme or high risk of eviction,¹⁴³⁴ while of the 26 verified IDP sites in Garowe, 36 % were classified as having

¹⁴²⁵ The following is a selection of incidents and does not claim to be representative in any sense. Moreover, please note that security incidents related to clan conflicts do not always receive local media attention and hence might go under-reported in Somalia. Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴²⁶ Radio Dalsan, Weerar khasaaro dhaliyay oo lagu qaaday goob loo diyaariyay doorashada duqa iyo ku-xigeenka degmada Eyl [An attack that caused casualties in a place prepared for the election of the mayor and deputy of Eyl district], 14 April 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴²⁷ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁴²⁸ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴²⁹ Such incidents include the following types: ‘ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance’, ‘ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance’ and ‘armed hostilities preventing access’.

UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴³⁰ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#)

UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 1 (January - March 2022), 17 July 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴³¹ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁴³² NRC defines ‘forced evictions’ as the ‘removal against their will of people from their homes and/or land which they occupy, without any form of legal or other protection’. NRC, An Unnecessary Burden: Forced Evictions and Covid-19, 1 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1

¹⁴³³ NRC, Eviction Information Portal, Data Sets, Somalia – July 2021-November 2022, as of 9 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴³⁴ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Burtinle Verified IDP Sites - March 2022, 29 March 2022, [url](#)

extreme and 0 % as having high risk of eviction.¹⁴³⁵ A January 2022 verification exercise classified 64 % of 25 verified IDP sites in Garowe as having extreme and 20 % as having a high risk of eviction.¹⁴³⁶ The DSA conducted by the REACH and the CCCM Cluster in November and December 2021 indicated that the 'proportion of assessed sites where [key informants] reported perceiving a very high risk of forced eviction' was 50 % in Garowe district.¹⁴³⁷

For the period between 6 November 2021 and 31 January 2022, the UNSG referred to a case of conflict-related rape in Garowe district, verified by UNSOM.¹⁴³⁸

2.6.2. Bari

(a) Background

Bari region shares borders with the regions of Sanaag, Sool and Nugal. It also borders the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. It consists of six districts: Caluula, Qandala, Bossaso, Qardho, Bandarbeyla and Iskushuban. The region's capital is Bossaso.¹⁴³⁹ The city of Bossaso attracts large numbers of IDPs, especially members of the Digil-Mirifle clan group, and is a major migration port.¹⁴⁴⁰ The majority of migrants using the 'Eastern Route' to Yemen cross the Gulf of Aden from Bossaso.¹⁴⁴¹

According to Joakim Gundel, the Osman Mahmud sub-clan of the Majeerteen clan is the dominant clan group in the region. The Ali Suleman clan is also of political relevance to the region. Smaller sub-clans, such as Ali Jibrail, Dashishe, and Kaptanle are inhabiting areas south and southeast of Bossaso.¹⁴⁴²

A December 2022 IPC document listed the population of Bari as 1 102 760 in 2022.¹⁴⁴³ UNOCHA estimated the population of Bari in 2021 at 1 042 587 (including 168 808 men, 174 960 women, 654 169 children, and 44 650 elderly people).¹⁴⁴⁴ The 2014 Population Estimation Survey conducted by UNFPA and Somali authorities¹⁴⁴⁵ estimated the population¹⁴⁴⁶

¹⁴³⁵ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Garoowe Verified IDP Sites - May 2022, 18 May 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴³⁶ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Garowe Verified IDP Sites - January 2022, 2 February 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴³⁷ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Garoowe district, Nugaal Region, March 2022 [url](#), p. 4

¹⁴³⁸ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 62

¹⁴³⁹ MSF, Somalia – General Reference Map, 11 October 2022, [url](#); UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#)

¹⁴⁴⁰ Gundel, J., interview, 7 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 126

¹⁴⁴¹ IOM, In the Djibouti Desert, a Lifeline for Newly Arrived Migrants, 15 November 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴⁴² Gundel, J., interview, 7 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 126

¹⁴⁴³ IPC, Nearly 8.3 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes [Table], 13 December 2022, [url](#), p. 4

¹⁴⁴⁴ UNOCHA, Somalia – 2021 Population Figures and Disaggregation, 7 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴⁴⁵ According to the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) of 2020, the 2014 Population Estimation Survey of Somalia 'is the most recent nationwide population estimation exercise undertaken in Somalia.' Somalia, NBS, The Somali Health and Demographic Survey 2020, 30 April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

¹⁴⁴⁶ As of 2022, the 2014 estimates remain the figures used in the latest official publications of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). See e.g., Somalia, Somalia Data Portal, Population – Dashboards, 1 March 2022, [url](#)

of Bari at 719 512, of whom 471 785 lived in urban areas, 65 483 in rural areas, and 133 234 were nomads.¹⁴⁴⁷ For figures on IDPs, see subsection below on conflict-related displacement.

(b) Actors' presence and conflict dynamics

Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence (along with other actors)

According to [Map 4. Somalia - Approximate Territorial Control](#), as of 30 November 2022, the Bari region, including the towns of Bossaso, Qandala, Caluula, Qardho and Bandarbayla, is controlled by Puntland's autonomous forces.¹⁴⁴⁸

According to an expert on security issues in Somalia, interviewed in June 2021, the land northwest of Bossaso bordering the Gulf of Aden was controlled by Al-Shabaab to a certain extent or at least contested by the group. This area extended into Sanaag region, almost to Erigabo.¹⁴⁴⁹ This is corroborated by the above-mentioned map by Political Geography Now (PolGeoNow) that shows an Al-Shabaab presence in the described area as of November 2022.¹⁴⁵⁰ This strip of land also includes the Galgala and Golis mountains.¹⁴⁵¹ The map also shows an ISIS presence in an area east of Bossaso, including 'mixed, unclear and/or local control' in the towns of Balidhidin and Timirshe.¹⁴⁵² In August 2021, ISIS forces captured Ballidhidin town after fighting with Puntland forces.¹⁴⁵³ Sources reported that ISIS was expanding its presence in the region.¹⁴⁵⁴

In November 2022, sources cited by Garowe Online news website reported that dozens of soldiers of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) had secretly landed in Bossaso city and were stationed at the Puntland Maritime Police Force (PMPF)¹⁴⁵⁵ bases.¹⁴⁵⁶

Conflict dynamics

Clan conflicts in Bari region are generally linked to competition over resources and land. In July 2021, an interviewed clan expert mentioned clan disputes in Bari region, where various Majerteen sub-clans mostly fought over land issues or the expansion of borders. The locations of the disputes mentioned were Iskushuban and Arma.¹⁴⁵⁷ The expert also mentioned arms smuggling and human trafficking networks as a conflict factor in Bari region. Security forces at

¹⁴⁴⁷ UNFPA, Population Estimation Survey 2014, Somalia, October 2014, [url](#), p. 31

¹⁴⁴⁸ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

¹⁴⁴⁹ Somali security expert I, interview, 20 and 27 June 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), pp. 126-127

¹⁴⁵⁰ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

¹⁴⁵¹ Somali Report, What is the Galgala Conflict?, 13 April 2012, [url](#)

¹⁴⁵² PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

¹⁴⁵³ Intelligence Briefs, Islamic State Somalia Kills Ballidhidin District Commissioner, Take Over Area In Apparent Resurgence In Bari, Puntland, 20 August 2021, [url](#); Horn Observer, ISIS fighters seize town in northeastern Somalia, 19 August 2021, [url](#); Garowe Online, ISIS seizes key area in Somalia's Puntland after battle, 19 August 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴⁵⁴ Intelligence Briefs, Islamic State Somalia Kills Ballidhidin District Commissioner, Take Over Area In Apparent Resurgence In Bari, Puntland, 20 August 2021, [url](#); Garowe Online, ISIS seizes key area in Somalia's Puntland after battle, 19 August 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴⁵⁵ Puntland Maritime Police Force, [Twitter], n.d., [url](#)

¹⁴⁵⁶ Garowe Online, Somalia: UAE soldiers secretly land in Puntland, 8 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁵⁷ Clan and access to justice expert VII, interview, 26 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), pp. 127-128

times tried to dismantle these networks. However, smugglers and traffickers are often protected by their local clans.¹⁴⁵⁸

Several operations by Puntland security forces (PSF) targeting Al-Shabaab and ISIS were reported in Bari's mountainous area in the reference period. Operations were reportedly conducted in July¹⁴⁵⁹ and early September 2021¹⁴⁶⁰ in the Cal Miskaad mountains, and in December 2021 in Madarshoon area.¹⁴⁶¹ Further operations were reported in March 2022¹⁴⁶² in Dhagha-Dhabur and Habar-Hagogan in the Galgala mountains,¹⁴⁶³ in June 2022 near the village of Timirshe,¹⁴⁶⁴ in July 2022 in the Golis and Cal Miskaad mountains,¹⁴⁶⁵ and in October or November 2022 in the Galgala and Almadow (Cal Madow) mountains.¹⁴⁶⁶

Please also see the section [2.7.2 Sanaag](#) for further information, as the northern mountainous region extends from Bari into Sanaag region.¹⁴⁶⁷

Attacks by Al-Shabaab on Af-Urur military base, located about 60 kilometres south-west of Bossaso,¹⁴⁶⁸ were reported in September,¹⁴⁶⁹ and in October 2021.¹⁴⁷⁰ Further clashes between PSF and Al-Shabaab were reported in the area in November 2021,¹⁴⁷¹ March 2022¹⁴⁷² and May 2022.¹⁴⁷³

¹⁴⁵⁸ Clan and access to justice expert VII, interview, 26 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 128

¹⁴⁵⁹ SG, Puntland Troops Battle ISIS Militants for Key Mountain Stronghold, 10 July 2021, [url](#); Puntland Post, Dagaal u dhaxeeya Puntland iyo Daacish oo ka socda Gobolka Bari [War between Puntland and ISIS in the East Region], 9 July 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴⁶⁰ Puntland Security Force [Twitter], Posted on: 2 September 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴⁶¹ Radio Risaala, Ciidamada Puntland oo howlgallo ka wada Buuraleyda Gobolka Bari [Puntland forces are conducting operations in the mountains of Bari region], 6 December 2021, [url](#); Radio Risaala, Ciidamada Puntland oo howlgal xoogan ka fuliyay Buuraleyda Gobolka Bari [Puntland forces carried out a strong operation in the mountains of Bari region], 5 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴⁶² SD, Puntland forces launched operations against Al Shabab in Galgala, 20 March 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁶³ Puntland Post, Ciidamada Puntland oo hawlgal ka fuliyay buuraha Galgala [Puntland forces carried out an operation in the Galgala mountains], 17 March 2022, [url](#); SG, Somalia: Puntland troops shell mountainous areas during anti-Al-Shabaab operation, 17 March 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁶⁴ Puntland Security Force [Twitter], Posted on: 24 June 2022, [url](#); Horseed Media, Puntland: Ciidanka PSF oo soo qabtay xubno sare oo ka tirsan Daacish oo u dhashey dalka Itoobiya [Puntland: The PSF has captured senior Daesh members originating from Ethiopia], 24 June 2022, [url](#); Garowe Online, "Ajaanib ka tirsan Daacish" oo lagu qabtay Puntland ["Foreigner belonging to Daesh" arrested in Puntland], 25 June 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁶⁵ SD, Puntland security forces target Al Shabaab and Daesh in Bari region, 26 July 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁶⁶ Aalsanaag.com, Ciidanka PSF Puntland oo Howlgallo Ka Sameeyey Buuraha Galgala. [The Puntland PSF forces carried out operations in the Galgala Mountains.], 4 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁶⁷ Radio Somaliland, Cal Madow, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁴⁶⁸ African Defence Review, Finding Af Urur – Al-Shabaab's latest target in Puntland, 10 June 2017, [url](#)

¹⁴⁶⁹ SG, Mortar Shells Target Military in Somalia's Puntland State, 7 September 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴⁷⁰ SG, Af-urur base in Somalia's Puntland State Comes Under Militant Attack, 30 October 2021, [url](#); Garowe Online, Somalia: Puntland lawmakers want Somaliland to be declared terrorist state, 31 October 2021, [url](#); SG, Al-Shabaab Militants Attack Base in Northeastern Somalia's Puntland State, 17 October 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴⁷¹ SMN, Puntland troops clash with Al-Shabaab militants in Bari region, 12 November 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴⁷² SMN, Al-Shabaab attacks army base in Puntland, 27 March 2022, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, UPDATE: Four Puntland soldiers, 12 al-Shabaab fighters dead in ongoing battle in Af Urur, 27 March 2022, [url](#); DW, Attacks grow as Somalia prepares for presidential election, 29 March 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁷³ Puntland Post, Al-shabaab oo weerar hoobiyaal ah ku qaaday saldhiga ciidamada Puntland ee Galgala [Al-Shabaab launched a mortar attack on the Puntland military base in Galgala], 17 May 2022, [url](#)

At the end of September 2022, the national security advisor to the President of Somalia reportedly announced the start of new operations against Al-Shabaab and ISIS by the Somali National Army in the Galgala mountains.¹⁴⁷⁴

Conflict dynamics also included incidents between rival security forces in Bossaso, occurring in late 2021. After Puntland's president Deni sacked the former head of the PSF in November 2021,¹⁴⁷⁵ clashes led to the killing of dozens of people,¹⁴⁷⁶ and the wounding of at least five civilians,¹⁴⁷⁷ and to the displacement of thousands of others, in December 2021.¹⁴⁷⁸ In March 2022, president Deni reinstated Diyaano,¹⁴⁷⁹ ending the three-month standoff.¹⁴⁸⁰

For more detailed information regarding clan disputes and conflict up until 30 June 2021, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

(c) Recent security incidents and trends

Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), civilian casualties

In the reference period, ACLED reported 53 security incidents in Bari region, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violent acts against civilians, causing 90 fatalities ([Figure 38](#)).¹⁴⁸¹

¹⁴⁷⁴ SMN, DF oo shaacisay inay howlgallo milatari ka bilaabeyso buuraha Galgala ee Puntland [Federal government has announced that it will start military operations in the Galgala mountains of Puntland], 25 September 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁷⁵ VOA, Somali Officials Announce Cease-Fire in Bosaso, 22 December 2021, [url](#); SG, Tensions Simmer as Troops Stage Mutiny in Puntland After President Sacked Top General, 28 November 2021, [url](#); SG, Somalia's Puntland State Deploys More Troops to Bosaso to Quell PSF Mutiny, 29 November 2021, [url](#); HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), pp. 19-20

¹⁴⁷⁶ SG, Somalia's Puntland State Deploys More Troops to Bosaso to Quell PSF Mutiny, 29 November 2021, [url](#); HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), p. 20; VOA, Somali Officials Announce Cease-Fire in Bosaso, 22 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴⁷⁷ SG, Gunfire, Shelling Heard in Bosaso After Puntland Troops Launched Offensive to Quell Soldier Mutiny, 21 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴⁷⁸ HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), p. 20

¹⁴⁷⁹ Mustaqbal Media, Deni re-appoints Mohamud Diyano as PSF director., 4 March 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁸⁰ Garowe Online, Somalia: President Deni reinstates sacked PSF commander in Puntland, 5 March 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁸¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

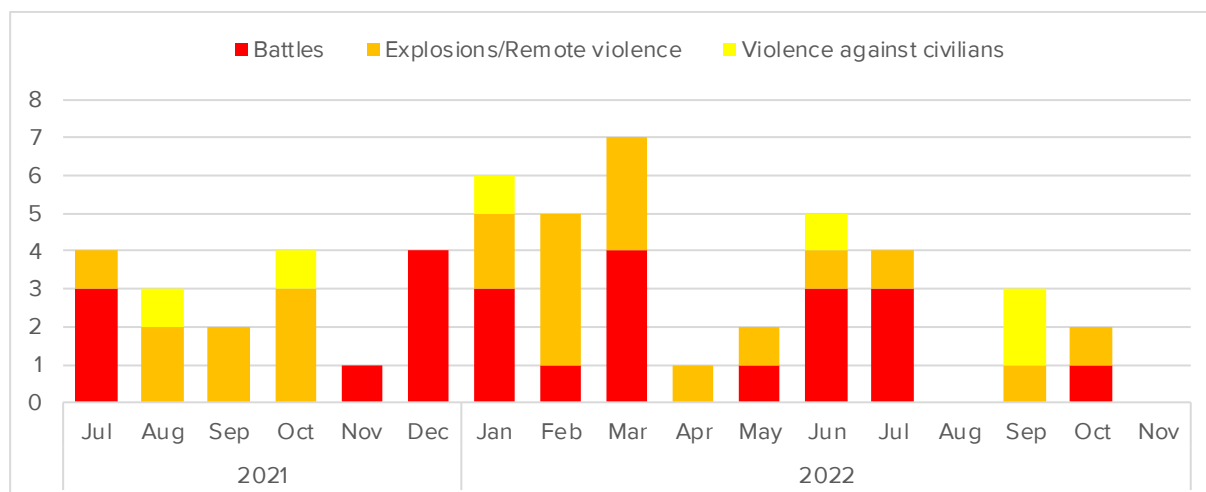


Figure 38. Bari – Evolution of security incidents coded battles, explosion/remote violence and violence against civilians from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁴⁸²

At the district level, Bossaso recorded the highest number of security incidents (32 incidents), followed by Iskushuban district (9 incidents, including 8 recorded in Af-Urur) between July 2021 and November 2022 (Figure 39).¹⁴⁸³

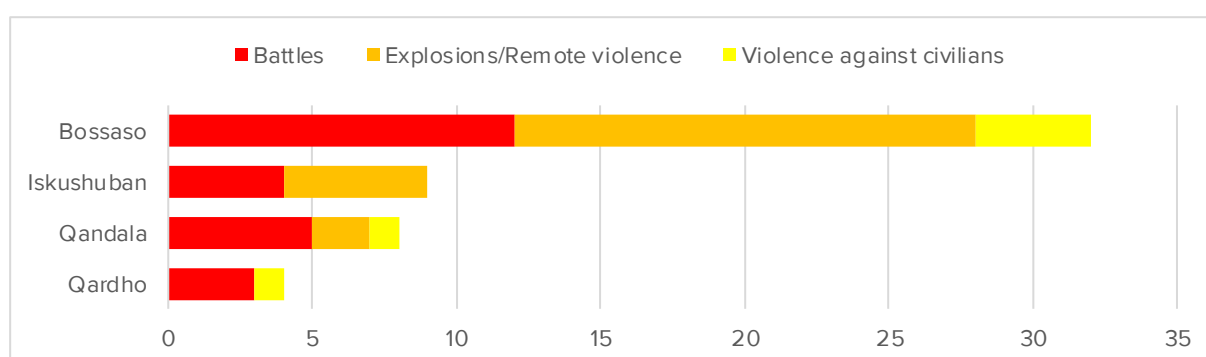


Figure 39. Bari – Breakdown of security incidents per district from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁴⁸⁴

For the reference period, ACLED reported Al-Shabaab being involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)¹⁴⁸⁵ in 28 security incidents (10 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 17 as ‘explosions/remote violence’ and 1 as ‘violence against civilians’) in Bari administrative region, resulting in 39 fatalities. Somali/Puntland security forces (military and police forces) were reportedly involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 43 security incidents (23 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 3 as ‘violence against civilians’, and 17 as ‘explosions/remote violence’) resulting in 77 fatalities, while ISIS was involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 6 security incidents (4 incidents

¹⁴⁸² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#).

¹⁴⁸³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#).

¹⁴⁸⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#).

¹⁴⁸⁵ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

coded as ‘battles’ and 1 each as ‘violence against civilians’ and ‘explosions/remote violence’) resulting in 5 fatalities.¹⁴⁸⁶

While no overall dataset could be found on the number of conflict-related civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) in the region, [Table 14](#) shows the numbers of incidents and estimated fatalities (without distinction as to civilian and non-civilian) in Bari region that were recorded by ACLED between July 2021 and end of November 2022, by type of incident:

Bari	Number of incidents	Number of estimated fatalities
Battles	24	51
Explosions/Remote violence	23	33
Violence against civilians	6	6
Total	53	90

Table 14. Bari – number of security incidents and fatalities by type of incident for the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁴⁸⁷

Of the 90 fatalities recorded in Bari between July 2021 and end of November 2022, most (72 fatalities) were reported in Bossaso district, followed by Iskushuban district (12 fatalities). When focusing on incidents coded by ACLED as ‘violence against civilians’, most of the 6 incidents that caused in total 6 fatalities were reported in Bossaso district (4 incidents and 5 fatalities).¹⁴⁸⁸

Illustrative security incidents with (high) impact on civilians¹⁴⁸⁹

On 13 June 2022, a civilian was killed by unidentified gunmen in front of a mosque in Bossaso city. The motive was unknown.¹⁴⁹⁰

On 2 October 2021, police officers killed two civilians in Bossaso city. The motive was unknown.¹⁴⁹¹

Conflict-related displacement

Between July 2021 and November 2022, 2 366 individuals were newly displaced from Bari due to conflict or insecurity, according to the UNHCR PRMN.¹⁴⁹² 72 % (or 1 711 individuals) of this group were displaced within the administrative region, while 655 individuals were

¹⁴⁸⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁸⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁸⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁸⁹ The following is a selection of incidents and does not claim to be representative in any sense. Moreover, please note that security incidents related to clan conflicts do not always receive local media attention and hence might go under-reported in Somalia. Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴⁹⁰ ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, SOM37130 [source: undisclosed source], [url](#)

¹⁴⁹¹ ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, SOM34866 [source: undisclosed source], [url](#)

¹⁴⁹² For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

displaced to Sanaag and Sool regions. Meanwhile, 576 individuals arrived in Bari from other regions. During the reference period, the district most affected by displacement due to conflict or insecurity was Qardho, with 1 889 arrivals.¹⁴⁹³

According to a local official in Bossaso, hundreds of families were forced to flee their homes as a result of the above-mentioned clashes between rival factions of security forces in December 2021.¹⁴⁹⁴ The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Adam Abdelmoula, stated that more than half of Bossaso's population had reportedly been displaced from their homes following three consecutive days of fighting. Around 40 % of the 70 000 IDPs hosted in the town reportedly 'experienced secondary displacement'.¹⁴⁹⁵

Other impacts on civilian life (e.g. infrastructure damage, evictions)

UNOCHA documented one humanitarian access incident¹⁴⁹⁶ in Bossaso district between July and September 2021¹⁴⁹⁷ and one incident in Bossaso district between January and March 2022.¹⁴⁹⁸ No such data was available for the period between October and December 2021 and between April and November 2022.

Data accessed through the NRC Eviction Information Portal¹⁴⁹⁹ recorded 11 415 individuals being forcibly evicted¹⁵⁰⁰ in Bari region (all in Bossaso town) during the period from July 2021 to November 2022.¹⁵⁰¹

IDP site verification exercises by the Global CCCM in March and June 2022 found that of the 25 verified IDP sites in Bossaso, 4 % were classified as having extreme and 32 % as having a high risk of eviction,¹⁵⁰² while of the 12 verified IDP sites in Qardho, 33 % were classified as having high risk of eviction.¹⁵⁰³ The DSA conducted by the REACH and the CCCM Cluster in November and December 2021 indicated that the 'proportion of assessed sites where [key

¹⁴⁹³ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴⁹⁴ Garowe Online, Clashes in Somalia's Puntland Force Thousands to Flee, 25 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴⁹⁵ UNOCHA, Statement by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Mr. Adam Abdelmoula, on the situation in Bossaso, Puntland State, 23 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴⁹⁶ Such incidents include the following types: 'ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance', 'ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance' and 'armed hostilities preventing access'. UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), p. 1

¹⁴⁹⁷ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#), p. 1

¹⁴⁹⁸ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 1 (January - March 2022), 17 July 2022, [url](#), p. 1

¹⁴⁹⁹ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁵⁰⁰ NRC defines 'forced evictions' as the 'removal against their will of people from their homes and/or land which they occupy, without any form of legal or other protection'. NRC, An Unnecessary Burden: Forced Evictions and Covid-19, 1 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1

¹⁵⁰¹ NRC, Eviction Information Portal, Data Sets, Somalia – July 2021-November 2022, as of 9 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁰² CCCM Cluster Somalia, Bossaso Verified IDP Sites - June 2022, 16 June 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁰³ CCCM Cluster Somalia, Qardho Verified IDP Sites - March 2022, 29 March 2022, [url](#)

informants] reported perceiving a very high risk of forced eviction' was 10 % in Bandarbeyla¹⁵⁰⁴ district, and 0 % in Bossaso and Qardho districts.¹⁵⁰⁵

For the period between 6 November 2021 and 31 January 2022, the UNSG referred to a case of conflict-related rape in Armo, south of Bossaso verified by UNSOM.¹⁵⁰⁶

2.6.3. Puntland – Checkpoints and road security

According to an international expert, interviewed in August 2021, in terms of internal mobility and security, Somali civilians and officials both were generally able to move around freely without 'too many security concerns'. However, this did not apply to areas where Al-Shabaab had a presence, such as around the Galgala mountains.¹⁵⁰⁷

After gunmen attacked a police station in Burtinle town, Nugal region, in October 2022, residents reported that the incident also affected the movement of people, transport and business.¹⁵⁰⁸

In June 2022, clan militias from Mudug region reportedly seized a checkpoint from Puntland forces in Burtinle district, Nugal region. Traffic was blocked at the checkpoint, while drivers called on the Puntland government to open the road.¹⁵⁰⁹

In November 2021, Puntland soldiers cut off the road connecting Garowe and Laas Caanood, protesting not having been paid for more than six months.¹⁵¹⁰

In August 2021 reports circulated in social media that persons entering Bossaso town were charged money at checkpoints. The Bari regional police command, however, denied this.¹⁵¹¹

¹⁵⁰⁴ The DSA mentions Baydhaba, however that area is located in Bay region.

¹⁵⁰⁵ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Bari Region, March 2022, [url](#), pp. 4; 8; 12

¹⁵⁰⁶ UNSG, Situation in Somalia, S/2022/101, 8 February 2022, [url](#), para. 62

¹⁵⁰⁷ International expert VIII, interview, 3 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 142. Expert VIII is an international expert based in Somalia with expertise on security and state-building issues.

¹⁵⁰⁸ Caasimada, Maleeshiyaad hubeysan oo weeraray saldhiga Burtinle [Armed militants attacked Burtinle police station], 2 October 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁰⁹ Puntland Times, DAAWO: Maleeshiyo beeled ka qabsaday Ciidanka Puntland kantarool muhiim ah [WATCH: Tribal militias seized important checkpoint from the Puntland Army], 23 June 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵¹⁰ Keydmedia, Ciidan gadoodsan oo xiray jidka isku xira Garowe iyo Laascaanood [A rebel army blocked the road connecting Garowe and Laascaanood], 2 November 2021, [url](#)

¹⁵¹¹ Radio Risaala, Taliska Booliska Gobolka Bari oo beeniyay Warar laga faafiyay [The Bari Regional Police Command denied the reports], 20 August 2021, [url](#)



2.7. Contested areas between Puntland and Somaliland

2.7.1. Sool

(a) Background

Sool region shares internal borders with the regions of Bari, Sanaag, Togdheer, and Nugal, and an international border with Ethiopia. The region's capital is Laas Caanood. Sool region consists of four districts: Taleex (also Taleh), Xudun (also Hudun), Caynabo (also Aynabo or Ainado) and Laas Caanood (also Laas Anood).¹⁵¹²

According to a June 2021 interview with a Somali security expert, most of the region's population is Dhulbahante (part of the Harti-Darod confederation¹⁵¹³), including in the towns of Laas Caanood, Taleex, and Xudun. Caynabo, however, is predominantly an Isaaq town.¹⁵¹⁴

A December 2022 IPC document listed the population of Sool as 478 265 in 2022.¹⁵¹⁵ UNOCHA estimated the population of Sool in 2021 at 464 488 (including 66 856 men, 69 752 women, 309 053 children, and 18 827 elderly people).¹⁵¹⁶ The 2014 Population Estimation Survey conducted by UNFPA and Somali authorities¹⁵¹⁷ estimated the population¹⁵¹⁸ of Sool at 327 428, among which 120 993 people lived in urban areas, 13 983 lived in rural areas, and 187 632 were nomads.¹⁵¹⁹ For figures on IDPs, see subsection below on conflict-related displacement.

(b) Actors' presence and conflict dynamics

Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence (along with other actors)

[Map 4. Somalia - Approximate Territorial Control](#) shows no Al-Shabaab presence in Sool region as of 30 November 2022. According to the map, the western part of the region is controlled by Somaliland forces, while the areas bordering Nugal and Bari regions are claimed both by the Somaliland administration and Puntland's autonomous forces. The towns of

¹⁵¹² MSF, Somalia – General Reference Map, 11 October 2022, [url](#); UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#)

¹⁵¹³ ISS, Mahmood O., Overlapping claims by Somaliland and Puntland – The case of Sool and Sanaag, November 2019, East Africa Report No. 27, [url](#), p. 3; EASO, COI report - South and Central Somalia Country overview [clan maps based on Lewis 1955, Abikar 1999], August 2014, [url](#), pp. 52-53

¹⁵¹⁴ Somali security expert I, interview, 20 and 27 June 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 132

¹⁵¹⁵ IPC, Nearly 8.3 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes [Table], 13 December 2022, [url](#), p. 4

¹⁵¹⁶ UNOCHA, Somalia – 2021 Population Figures and Disaggregation, 7 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁵¹⁷ According to the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) of 2020, the 2014 Population Estimation Survey of Somalia 'is the most recent nationwide population estimation exercise undertaken in Somalia.' Somalia, NBS, The Somali Health and Demographic Survey 2020, 30 April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

¹⁵¹⁸ As of 2022, the 2014 estimates remain the figures used in the latest official publications of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). See e.g., Somalia, Somalia Data Portal, Population – Dashboards, 1 March 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵¹⁹ UNFPA, Population Estimation Survey 2014, Somalia, October 2014, [url](#), p. 31.



Taleex and Boocame are also of mixed, unclear and/or local control, while Xudun, Tukaraq and Laas Caanood are controlled by the Somaliland administration only.¹⁵²⁰

According to a June 2021 interview with an expert, the Dhulbahante majority is siding with the Somaliland administration.¹⁵²¹ However, local authorities have repeatedly switched sides between Puntland and Somaliland in the past.¹⁵²²

Conflict dynamics

On 31 October 2022, Somaliland forces reportedly took over Boocame district in the Sool region,¹⁵²³ which was formerly controlled by Puntland.¹⁵²⁴ Already in May¹⁵²⁵ and August¹⁵²⁶ 2022 Somaliland forces had reportedly entered the district.

Sool region was a highly disputed area in terms of clan rivalries.¹⁵²⁷ In July 2021 interviewed experts noted several clan disputes or conflicts which were relevant in the region, including between various Isaaq and Dhulbahante sub-clans revolving around water wells (boreholes),¹⁵²⁸ and between sub-clans of the Dhulbahante group.¹⁵²⁹ ACLED recorded various clashes between the Dhulbahante sub-clan Hassan Ugas and the Majeerteen sub-clan Issa Mahmud between July 2021 and July 2022 in Boocame.¹⁵³⁰ In early January 2022, clashes between tribal militias in the Saahmaygaag and Sanga Jabiye areas of Nugal and Sool regions were reported.¹⁵³¹ Please see section [2.6.1](#) for further information.

For more detailed information regarding clan disputes and conflict up until 30 June 2021, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

¹⁵²⁰ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

¹⁵²¹ Somali security expert I, interview, 20 and 27 June 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 133

¹⁵²² Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 133

¹⁵²³ Hiiraan Online, Somaliland military chief attempts to deescalate Puntland conflict, 5 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵²⁴ Goobjoog, Somaliland forces take over Boocame district previously under Puntland's jurisdiction, 31 October 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵²⁵ Radio Risaala, Ciidamada Somaliland oo la wareegay degmo katirsan Gobolka Sool [Somaliland forces have taken over a district in the Sool region], 18 May 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵²⁶ SG, Puntland says Somaliland troops have 'invaded' its territory, 4 August 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵²⁷ UNOCHA, 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Somalia, October 2021, [url](#), pp. 16-17

¹⁵²⁸ Gundel, J., interview, 7 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 133

¹⁵²⁹ Clan and access to justice expert VII, interview, 26 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 133

¹⁵³⁰ ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, SOM34392, SOM34483, and SOM34430 [source: Radio Kulmiye]; SOM35742, SOM36951, and SOM37301 [source: undisclosed source], [url](#)

¹⁵³¹ BBC News Somali, Dagaalka Saax-maygaag: Wax ka ogow dagaalka Sool iyo Nugaal ee lagu dilay dad ka badan 20 qof iyo waxa la isku hayo [Battle of Saah-Migaag: Learn more about the Sool and Nugal war that killed more than 20 people and the conflict], 3 January 2022, [url](#)

(c) Recent security incidents and trends

Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), civilian casualties

In the reference period, ACLED reported 32 security incidents in Sool region, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violent acts against civilians, causing 55 fatalities ([Figure 40](#)).¹⁵³²

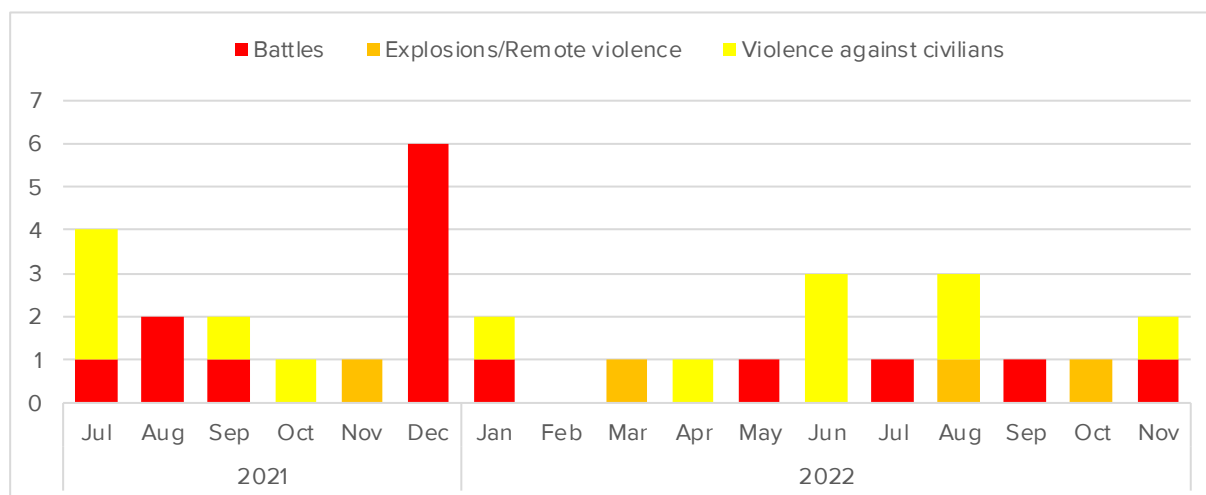


Figure 40. Sool – Evolution of security incidents coded battles, explosion/remote violence and violence against civilians from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁵³³

In the reference period, all but one security incident occurred in Laas Caanood, with the remaining one occurring in Xudun district ([Figure 41](#)).¹⁵³⁴

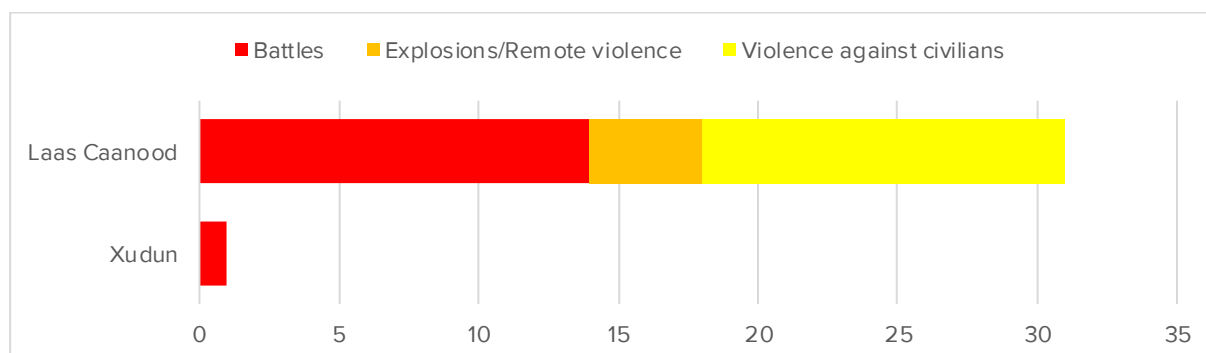


Figure 41. Sool – Breakdown of security incidents per district from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁵³⁵

¹⁵³² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#).

¹⁵³³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#).

¹⁵³⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#).

¹⁵³⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#).

For the reference period, ACLED reported Dhulbahante militias being involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)¹⁵³⁶ in 13 security incidents, including all 9 incidents with an involvement of Majeerteen militias. Unidentified militias or unidentified armed groups were reportedly involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 17 security incidents resulting in 12 fatalities, while Somaliland Police or Military forces were reportedly involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 6 security incidents resulting in 5 fatalities.¹⁵³⁷ 13 incidents were coded as ‘violence against civilians’, all involving unidentified armed groups or clan militias. 15 incidents were coded as ‘battles’, mainly (9 incidents) involving clashes between the Dhulbahante-Hassan Ugas sub-clan militia and Majeerteen-Issa Mahmud sub-clan militia.¹⁵³⁸

While no overall dataset could be found on the number of conflict-related civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) in the region, [Table 15](#) shows the numbers of incidents and estimated fatalities (without distinction as to civilian and non-civilian) in Sool region that were recorded by ACLED between July 2021 and end of September 2022, by type of incident:

Sool	Number of incidents	Number of estimated fatalities
Battles	15	40
Explosions/Remote violence	4	1
Violence against civilians	13	14
Total	32	55

Table 15. Sool – number of security incidents and fatalities by type of incident for the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁵³⁹

Of the 55 fatalities recorded in Sool between July 2021 and end of November 2022, all but one were reported in Laas Caanood district. When focusing on incidents coded by ACLED as ‘violence against civilians’, all of the 13 incidents that caused in total 14 fatalities were reported in Laas Caanood district.¹⁵⁴⁰

Illustrative security incidents with (high) impact on civilians¹⁵⁴¹

On 27 September 2021, a Somaliland police official was killed and another wounded, after Somaliland security forces clashed with an armed group in the town of Xudun. The armed group was reportedly dealing in drugs.¹⁵⁴²

¹⁵³⁶ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁵³⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵³⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵³⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁴⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁴¹ The following is a selection of incidents and does not claim to be representative in any sense. Moreover, please note that security incidents related to clan conflicts do not always receive local media attention and hence might go under-reported in Somalia. Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#)

¹⁵⁴² Radio Dalsan, Koox Hubeysan oo dagaal ku dilay Taliyihii Booliska Degmada Xudun ee Gobolka Sool [An armed group killed the Police Commander of Hudun District in Sool Region], 27 September 2021, [url](#); SG, Somaliland Police Official Killed in Gunfight with Militia Group, 28 September 2021, [url](#)



On 15 December 2021, rebel fighters identifying themselves with the Khatumo State movement attacked military and police camps of Somaliland forces in Laas Caanood. After heavy gunfights the attackers retreated. There were no reports of casualties.¹⁵⁴³

On 5 June 2022, clashes between clan militias were reported in Boocame district.¹⁵⁴⁴ Two people were killed and three others injured.¹⁵⁴⁵

Conflict-related displacement

Between July 2021 and November 2022, 291 individuals were newly displaced from Sool due to conflict or insecurity, according to the UNHCR PRMN.¹⁵⁴⁶ 92 % (or 269 individuals) of this group were displaced within the same administrative region, while 22 individuals were displaced to Wogoyi Galbeed and Bari regions. In the same period, conflict and insecurity resulted in 624 individuals arriving in Sool from Bari and Nugal regions. During the reference period, Laas Caanood district was the district most affected by conflict- or insecurity-related displacement, with 242 individuals leaving the district and 893 individuals arriving (including movements within the district).¹⁵⁴⁷

Other impacts on civilian life (e.g. infrastructure damage, evictions)

UNOCHA documented two humanitarian access incidents¹⁵⁴⁸ in Caynabo and Laas Caanood districts between July and September 2021¹⁵⁴⁹ and one incident in Laas Caanood district between January and March 2022.¹⁵⁵⁰ No such data was available for the period between October and December 2021 and between April and November 2022.

In early October 2021, over 7 000 people were displaced from Laas Caanood after they were arrested and evicted by Somaliland forces on alleged security grounds.¹⁵⁵¹ According to the Ministry of Interior of Puntland, about 3 800 of the evicted went to Mudug Region. The affected persons originally came from South West State, Hirshabelle, and Banadir, and some from Ethiopia,¹⁵⁵² and many had lived in Somaliland for decades.¹⁵⁵³ They were mainly

¹⁵⁴³ SG, Somaliland's Lasanod Town Hit By Overnight Attack, 16 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁵⁴⁴ Mogadishu Times, Dagaal ay ku dhinteen laba nin walaalo ah oo ka dhacay Gobolka Sool [A fight in which two brothers died in the Sool region], 5 June 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁴⁵ Goobjoog, Two brothers killed in deadly clashes in Sool region, 5 June 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁴⁶ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁵⁴⁷ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁴⁸ Such incidents include the following types: 'ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance', 'ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance' and 'armed hostilities preventing access'.

UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁵⁴⁹ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁵⁵⁰ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 1 (January - March 2022), 17 July 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁵¹ Horn Observer, Over 7,000 people evicted from Las'anod – UNHCR, 16 October 2021, [url](#); HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), p. 18

¹⁵⁵² IFRC, Somalia: Population Movement from Laascaanood - Final Report, DREF Operation n° MDRSO012, 22 September 2022, [url](#); Horn Observer, Over 7,000 people evicted from Las'anod – UNHCR, 16 October 2021, [url](#)

¹⁵⁵³ HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), p. 18



members of the Rahanweyn clan.¹⁵⁵⁴ Somaliland authorities cited security concerns as reason for the evictions.¹⁵⁵⁵

Data accessed through the NRC Eviction Information Portal¹⁵⁵⁶ recorded 9 210 individuals being forcibly evicted¹⁵⁵⁷ in Sool region (9 179 in Laas Caanood district) for the period July 2021 to November 2022.¹⁵⁵⁸

The DSA conducted by the REACH and the CCCM Cluster in November and December 2021 indicated that the 'proportion of assessed sites where [key informants] reported perceiving a very high risk of forced eviction' was 0 % in Caynabo, Laas Caanood, and Xudun districts.¹⁵⁵⁹

2.7.2. Sanaag

(a) Background

Sanaag region borders the Gulf of Aden and shares borders with the regions of Bari, Wogoyi Galbeed, Togdheer, and Sool. It consists of three districts: Laasqoray, Ceerigaabo (also known as Erigabo or Erigavo) and Ceel Afweyn (also known as El Afweyne). The region's capital is Ceerigaabo.¹⁵⁶⁰

Sanaag's eastern part is mainly inhabited by the Harti-Darod sub-clan¹⁵⁶¹ Warsangeli,¹⁵⁶² while the Dhulbahante clan is present in some of the southern parts.¹⁵⁶³ The Isaaq sub-clan Habar Yunis predominantly inhabits Sanaag's western parts, including Ceerigaabo. The town also hosts the Gabooye group, along with other smaller minority groups and Warsangeli.¹⁵⁶⁴

A December 2022 IPC document listed the population of Sanaag as 325 136 in 2022.¹⁵⁶⁵ UNOCHA estimated the population of Sanaag in 2021 at 362 721 (including 56 512 men, 54 461 women, 233 502 children, and 18 246 elderly people).¹⁵⁶⁶ The 2014 Population Estimation Survey conducted by UNFPA and Somali authorities¹⁵⁶⁷ estimated that the

¹⁵⁵⁴ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch: Tracking Conflict Worldwide, Somaliland - October 2021, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁵⁵⁵ HIPS, State of Somalia Report 2021, 8 February 2022, [url](#), p. 18

¹⁵⁵⁶ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁵⁵⁷ NRC defines 'forced evictions' as the 'removal against their will of people from their homes and/or land which they occupy, without any form of legal or other protection'. NRC, An Unnecessary Burden: Forced Evictions and Covid-19, 1 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1

¹⁵⁵⁸ NRC, Eviction Information Portal, Data Sets, Somalia – July 2021-November 2022, as of 9 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁵⁹ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Sool Region, March 2022, [url](#), pp. 4; 8; 12

¹⁵⁶⁰ MSF, Somalia – General Reference Map, 11 October 2022, [url](#); UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#)

¹⁵⁶¹ EASO, COI report - South and Central Somalia Country overview [clan maps based on Lewis 1955, Abikar 1999], August 2014, [url](#), pp. 52-53

¹⁵⁶² Gundel, J., interview, 7 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 137

¹⁵⁶³ ISS, Mahmood O., Overlapping claims by Somaliland and Puntland – The case of Sool and Sanaag, November 2019, East Africa Report No. 27, [url](#), p. 3

¹⁵⁶⁴ Gundel, J., interview, 7 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 137

¹⁵⁶⁵ IPC, Nearly 8.3 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes [Table], 13 December 2022, [url](#), p. 4

¹⁵⁶⁶ UNOCHA, Somalia – 2021 Population Figures and Disaggregation, 7 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁵⁶⁷ According to the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) of 2020, the 2014 Population Estimation Survey of Somalia 'is the most recent nationwide population estimation exercise undertaken in Somalia.' Somalia, NBS, The Somali Health and Demographic Survey 2020, 30 April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

population¹⁵⁶⁸ of Sanaag was 544 123, of whom 159 717 lived in urban areas, 30 804 in rural areas, and 352 692 were nomads.¹⁵⁶⁹ For figures on IDPs, see subsection below on conflict-related displacement.

(b) Actors' presence and conflict dynamics

Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence (along with other actors)

Although Somaliland claims control over the entire region, including Laasqoray (located in the east),¹⁵⁷⁰ in practice, the region's eastern part is physically controlled by Puntland, according to a September 2022 article by the Long War Journal.¹⁵⁷¹ According to a June 2021 interview with a security expert on Somalia, the population of Sanaag is divided into Warsangeli (Harti) and Isaaq clan groups.¹⁵⁷² In June 2022, Warsangeli clans and the government of Somaliland agreed at a conference held in Ceerigaabo¹⁵⁷³ that the 'Warsangali community is fully part of the Somaliland Republic.'¹⁵⁷⁴

According to [Map 4. Somalia - Approximate Territorial Control](#), as of 30 November 2022 the western part of the region is controlled by Somaliland forces, while the areas bordering Nugal and Bari regions are claimed both by the Somaliland administration and Puntland's autonomous forces. The town of Dhahar is also of mixed, unclear and/or local control, while Badhan, Laasqoray and Milho are controlled by the Puntland administration, and Ceerigaabo and Ceel Afweyn by the Somaliland administration only.¹⁵⁷⁵

The map by Political Geography Now also shows an Al-Shabaab presence in the north-eastern mountainous parts of Sanaag region.¹⁵⁷⁶ According to a November 2022 article by the Horn Observer, in Milho village, located around 60 kilometres from Laasqoray in the Golis mountain range, Al-Shabaab is reportedly involved in gold mining activities and is collecting taxes. The mines are mainly located in places with no presence of government forces. The Al-Shabaab units operating in the area are highly mobile and heavily armed, and they established a taxation scheme despite the presence of Puntland and international counter-terrorism forces around the Golis mountain ranges.¹⁵⁷⁷ Local clan-based militias, however, fought Al-Shabaab on several occasions.¹⁵⁷⁸

¹⁵⁶⁸ As of 2022, the 2014 estimates remain the figures used in the latest official publications of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). See e.g., Somalia, Somalia Data Portal, Population – Dashboards, 1 March 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁶⁹ UNFPA, Population Estimation Survey 2014, Somalia, October 2014, [url](#), p. 31.

¹⁵⁷⁰ MSF, Somalia – General Reference Map, 11 October 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁷¹ LWJ, Contested area of northern Somalia witnesses rare suicide bombing, 12 September 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁷² Somali security expert I, interview, 20 and 27 June 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 138

¹⁵⁷³ SD, President Bihi's first visit to Erigavo met with protest, 13 June 2022, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Xukuumada Somaliland iyo madax-dhaqameedka bariga Sanaag oo heshiis gaadhay [The government of Somaliland and the traditional leaders of eastern Sanaag reached an agreement], 16 June 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁷⁴ Madaxtooyadda Jamhuuriyadda Somaliland [Presidential Office Somaliland], Somaliland: Agreements Reached in the Mideeye Conference, 16 June 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁷⁵ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

¹⁵⁷⁶ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

¹⁵⁷⁷ Horn Observer, Getting a grip on Somalia's Gold rush, 11 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁷⁸ LWJ, Contested area of northern Somalia witnesses rare suicide bombing, 12 September 2022, [url](#)

Conflict dynamics

In February¹⁵⁷⁹ and March 2022, Puntland Security Forces were carrying out operations against Al-Shaaab in Sanaag and Bari regions, mainly in the Calmadow mountains around Milho and in the Galgala mountains.¹⁵⁸⁰ In early March 2022, Al-Shabaab launched attacks on a Puntland military base in Milho village,¹⁵⁸¹ and reportedly took control of the village.¹⁵⁸² A Puntland official, however, said security forces had repelled the attack.¹⁵⁸³

Please also see the section [2.6.2 Bari](#) on further information, especially regarding incidents in Af-Urur village, which ACLED located in Iskushuban district, in Bari region.¹⁵⁸⁴ A reference map by UNOCHA, however, locates Af-Urur in Sanaag region near the border to Bari region.¹⁵⁸⁵

A clan and access to justice expert interviewed in July 2021 mentioned a clan conflict in and around the town of Ceerigaabo between Warsangeli and Isaaq clans about mining rights. The expert also noted intra-Warsangeli disputes over land issues in Sanaag that, however, never developed into large scale conflict. In Ceel Afweyne, the expert mentioned disputes between Habar Yunis and Habar Jeelo linages over grazing land, water resources and political power.¹⁵⁸⁶

For more detailed information regarding clan disputes and conflict up until 30 June 2021, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

(c) Recent security incidents and trends

Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), civilian casualties

In the reference period, ACLED reported 9 security incidents in Sanaag region, including battles, violent acts against civilians, and one suicide bomb attack causing 14 fatalities ([Figure 42](#)).¹⁵⁸⁷

¹⁵⁷⁹ SD, Puntland forces conduct operations against Al-Shabaab., 5 February 2022, [url](#); Puntland Post, Ciidamada Puntland oo gaaray degaan shalay Al-shabaab weerartay [Puntland forces arrived in an area attacked by Al-Shabaab yesterday], 2 February 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁸⁰ SD, Puntland forces launched operations against Al Shabab in Galgala, 20 March 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁸¹ SomaliMemo, Al Shabaab oo weerar madaafiic ah ku qaaday saldhig ku dhow degmada Laasqoray. [Al Shabaab launched an artillery attack on a base near Lasqoray district], 3 March 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁸² Radio Dalsan, Al-Shabaab captures a town in Puntland State after a successful ambush, 2 March 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁸³ SD, Al-Shabaab attacks Milho region again, 3 March 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁸⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁸⁵ UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#)

¹⁵⁸⁶ Clan and access to justice expert VII, interview, 26 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 138

¹⁵⁸⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

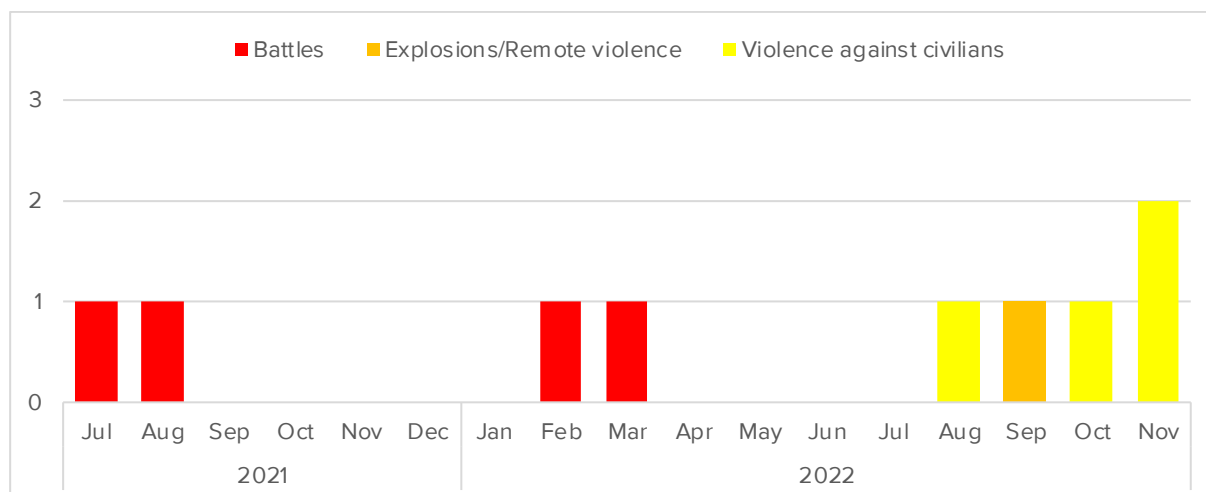


Figure 42. Sanaag – Evolution of security incidents coded battles, explosion/remote violence and violence against civilians from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁵⁸⁸

At the district level, Ceerigaabo recorded the highest number of security incidents (5 incidents), followed by Ceel Afweyn district (2 incidents) between July 2021 and November 2022 (Figure 43).¹⁵⁸⁹

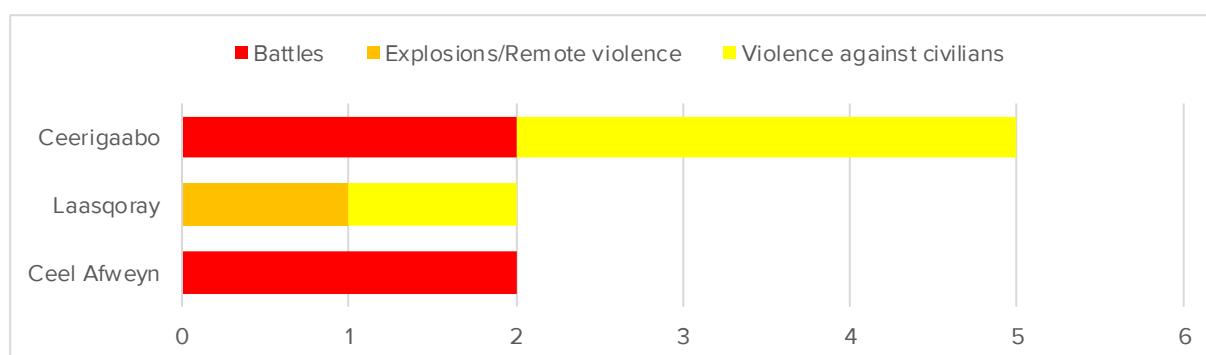


Figure 43. Sanaag – Breakdown of security incidents per district from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁵⁹⁰

For the reference period, ACLED reported Al-Shabaab being involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)¹⁵⁹¹ in 4 security incidents in Sanaag administrative region (2 incidents coded as ‘battles’, 1 as ‘explosions/remote violence’, and 1 as ‘violence against civilians’), resulting in 9 fatalities. All four recorded Al-Shabaab incidents occurred in Milho¹⁵⁹² village, near Laasqoray.

¹⁵⁸⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁸⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁹⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁹¹ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁵⁹² ACLED coded the location of Milxo village both in Ceerigaabo and Laasqoray districts.

Somaliland military and police forces were involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 3 incidents resulting in 3 fatalities.¹⁵⁹³

While no overall dataset could be found on the number of conflict-related civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) in the region, [Table 16](#) shows the numbers of incidents and estimated fatalities (without distinction as to civilian and non-civilian) in Sanaag region that were recorded by ACLED between July 2021 and end of November 2022, by type of incident:

Sanaag	Number of incidents	Number of estimated fatalities
Battles	4	6
Explosions/Remote violence	1	3
Violence against civilians	4	5
Total	9	14

Table 16. Sanaag – number of security incidents and fatalities by type of incident for the period between July 2021 and September 2022, based on ACLED data. ¹⁵⁹⁴

Of the 14 fatalities recorded in Sanaag between July 2021 and end of November 2022, most (7 fatalities) were coded by ACLED in Ceerigaabo district, ahead of Laasqoray district (5 fatalities) and Ceel Afweyn district (2 fatalities). When focusing on incidents coded by ACLED as ‘violence against civilians’, 3 of the 4 incidents that caused 5 fatalities in total were reported in Ceerigaabo district ¹⁵⁹⁵

Illustrative security incidents with (high) impact on civilians ¹⁵⁹⁶

In January 2022, clan militias took control of Ood-La village in Damala Xagare area and destroyed buildings and water reservoirs.¹⁵⁹⁷

On 11 September 2022, at least 5 people were killed and 11 injured in a suicide attack in a grocery store in Milho village in the Calmadow mountains.¹⁵⁹⁸

¹⁵⁹³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁹⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁹⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁹⁶ The following is a selection of incidents and does not claim to be representative in any sense. Moreover, please note that security incidents related to clan conflicts do not always receive local media attention and hence might go under-reported in Somalia. Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#)

¹⁵⁹⁷ Puntland Post, Colaad beeleed ka aloosan degaanka Damalla-xagarre [A communal conflict in Damalla-hagarre area], 6 January 2022, [url](#); Radio Dalsan, Xiisad Colaadeed oo Maanta ka taagan degaan ka tirsan Gobolka Sanaag [There is a conflict today in a region of Sanaag region], 7 January 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵⁹⁸ Puntland Post, Puntland: Qarax ismiidaamin ah oo dhacay Milxo [A suicide bombing in Milho], 11 September 2022, [url](#); Qorilugud News 24, Around Five People Died In A Suspected Suicide Bombing In The Village Of Milho Under Lasqoray District In Sanaag Region., 11 September 2022, [url](#); SD, Puntland: PFS arrests the man linked with recent suicide explosion, 22 September 2022, [url](#)



Conflict-related displacement

Between July 2021 and November 2022, 571 individuals were newly displaced from Sanaag due to conflict or insecurity, according to the UNHCR PRMN.¹⁵⁹⁹ Of that, 77 % (or 438 individuals) were displaced within the administrative region, while 133 individuals were displaced to Wogoyi Galbeed and Bari regions. In the same period, conflict and insecurity resulted in 206 individuals arriving in Sanaag from Bari region. During the reference period, Laasqoray district was the district most affected by conflict- or insecurity-related displacements in terms of departures with 357 individuals leaving the district, while in terms of arrivals Dhahar district was the district most affected, with 368 individuals arriving.¹⁶⁰⁰

Other impacts on civilian life (e.g. infrastructure damage, evictions)

UNOCHA documented no humanitarian access incidents¹⁶⁰¹ in Sanaag between July and September 2021¹⁶⁰² and two incidents in Ceerigaabo district between January and March 2022.¹⁶⁰³ No such data was available for the period between October and December 2021 and between April and November 2022.

Data accessed through the NRC Eviction Information Portal¹⁶⁰⁴ recorded 477 individuals being forcibly evicted¹⁶⁰⁵ in Sanaag region (all in Ceerigaabo district) for the period July 2021 to November 2022.¹⁶⁰⁶

In early October 2021, Somaliland forces started to conduct deportations of hundreds of people from some parts of Sanaag.¹⁶⁰⁷ In October and November 2021 Somaliland authorities set a 14-day ultimatum¹⁶⁰⁸ and issued warnings for 'non-Somalilanders' to leave the region.¹⁶⁰⁹

The DSA conducted by the REACH and the CCCM Cluster in November and December 2021 indicated that the 'proportion of assessed sites where [key informants] reported perceiving a very high risk of forced eviction' was 0 % across Ceel Afweyn, Ceerigaabo, and Laasqoray districts.¹⁶¹⁰

¹⁵⁹⁹ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁶⁰⁰ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁰¹ Such incidents include the following types: 'ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance', 'ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance' and 'armed hostilities preventing access'.

UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶⁰² UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶⁰³ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 1 (January - March 2022), 17 July 2022, [url](#), p. 1

¹⁶⁰⁴ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁶⁰⁵ NRC defines 'forced evictions' as the 'removal against their will of people from their homes and/or land which they occupy, without any form of legal or other protection'. NRC, An Unnecessary Burden: Forced Evictions and Covid-19, 1 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1

¹⁶⁰⁶ NRC, Eviction Information Portal, Data Sets, Somalia – July 2021-November 2022, as of 9 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁰⁷ Somaliland.com, Somaliland Immigration Authorities launched Security operations to arrests undocumented Ethiopian immigrants, 6 October 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶⁰⁸ Mustaqbal Media, Somaliland intensifies forced displacements, gives 14 days ultimatum to Southern Somali traders. - Mustaqbal Media, 11 October 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶⁰⁹ SD, Somaliland issues final warning to Somalis in Sanag, 18 November 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶¹⁰ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Sanaag Region, March 2022, [url](#), pp. 4, 8, 12



2.7.3. Contested areas – Checkpoints and road security

Regarding internal mobility and security, an expert interviewed on security issues in Somalia in August 2021, noted that while in Puntland, both the average Somali and government officials can in general freely move around without ‘too many security concerns’, the contested area in Sool and Sanaag or areas where Al-Shabaab has presence, are excepted from this.¹⁶¹¹

In November 2021, Puntland soldiers cut off the road connecting Garowe and Laas Caanood, protesting not having been paid for more than six months.¹⁶¹²

2.8. Somaliland

2.8.1. Awdal

(a) Background

Awdal region shares international borders with Djibouti and Ethiopia, borders the Gulf of Aden and the region of Wogoyi Galbeed. It consists of four districts: Zeylac, Lughaye, Baki and Borama. The region’s capital is Borama.¹⁶¹³

Awdal is inhabited by the Dir clans Gadabursi¹⁶¹⁴ (also known as Samaroon Gadabursi)¹⁶¹⁵ and Issa (or Ciise), with the regional capital Borama at the centre of the Gadabursi territory.¹⁶¹⁶

A December 2022 IPC document listed the population of Awdal as 571 230 in 2022.¹⁶¹⁷ UNOCHA estimated the population of Awdal in 2021 at 538 211 (including 92 285 men, 90 028 women, 339 178 children, and 16 720 elderly people).¹⁶¹⁸ The 2014 Population Estimation Survey conducted by UNFPA and Somali authorities¹⁶¹⁹ estimated the population¹⁶²⁰ of Awdal at 673 263 inhabitants in total, with 287 821 people living in urban areas, 143 743 living in rural areas, and 233 709 people were nomads.¹⁶²¹ For figures on IDPs, see subsection below on conflict-related displacement.

¹⁶¹¹ International expert VIII, interview, 3 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 142

¹⁶¹² Keydmedia, Ciidan gadoodsan oo xiray jidka isku xira Garowe iyo Laascaanood [A rebel army blocked the road connecting Garowe and Lascaanod], 2 November 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶¹³ MSF, Somalia – General Reference Map, 11 October 2022, [url](#); UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#)

¹⁶¹⁴ International Crisis Group, Building on Somaliland’s Successful Elections, 12 August 2021, [url](#), p. 7, footnote 39

¹⁶¹⁵ Gundel, J., interview, 7 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 142

¹⁶¹⁶ EASO, COI report - South and Central Somalia Country overview [clan maps based on Lewis 1955, Abikar 1999], August 2014, [url](#), pp. 52-53

¹⁶¹⁷ IPC, Nearly 8.3 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes [Table], 13 December 2022, [url](#), p. 4

¹⁶¹⁸ UNOCHA, Somalia – 2021 Population Figures and Disaggregation, 7 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶¹⁹ According to the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) of 2020, the 2014 Population Estimation Survey of Somalia ‘is the most recent nationwide population estimation exercise undertaken in Somalia.’ Somalia, NBS, The Somali Health and Demographic Survey 2020, 30 April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

¹⁶²⁰ As of 2022, the 2014 estimates remain the figures used in the latest official publications of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). See e.g., Somalia, Somalia Data Portal, Population – Dashboards, 1 March 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶²¹ UNFPA, Population Estimation Survey 2014, Somalia, October 2014, [url](#), p. 31

(b) Actors' presence and conflict dynamics

Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence (along with other actors)

[Map 4. Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control](#) shows no Al-Shabaab presence in Awdal region as of 30 November 2022. According to the map, the whole region is controlled by Somaliland forces, including the towns of Lughaye and Borama.¹⁶²² Another map by Political Geography Now, as of 30 June 2021, shows identical control areas as the more recent November 2022 map mentioned above.¹⁶²³

Conflict dynamics

No information could be found on major current conflict dynamics in Awdal.

For information regarding clan disputes and conflicts up until 30 June 2021, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

(c) Recent security incidents and trends

Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), civilian casualties

In the reference period, ACLED reported four security incidents in Awdal region, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violent acts against civilians, causing five fatalities ([Figure 44](#)).¹⁶²⁴

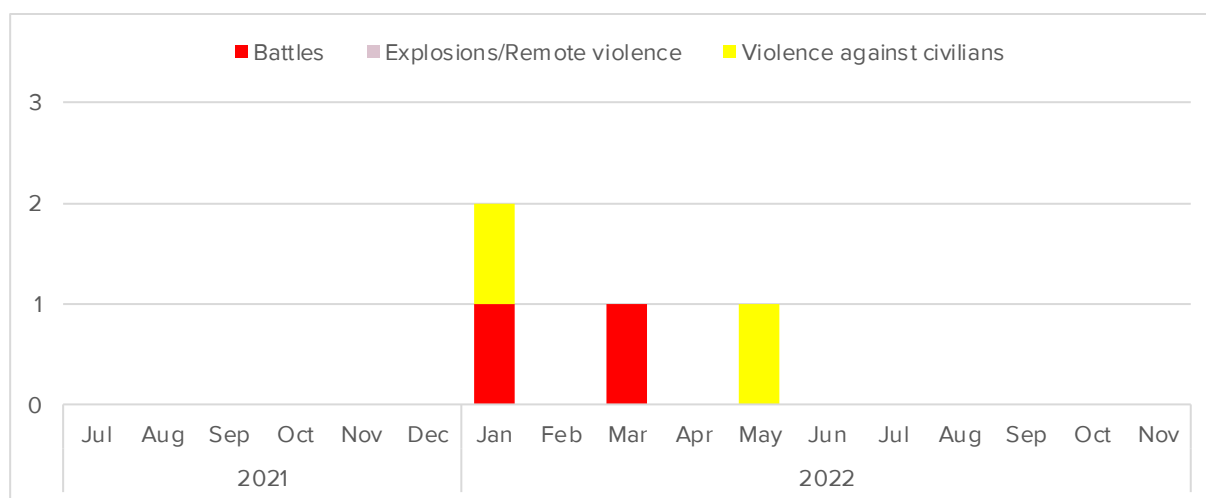


Figure 44. Awdal – Evolution of security incidents coded battles, explosion/remote violence and violence against civilians from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁶²⁵

¹⁶²² PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

¹⁶²³ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 June 2021, n.a., non-public source

¹⁶²⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶²⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

At the district level, all security incidents were recorded in Borama district (4 incidents) between July 2021 and November 2022 ([Figure 45](#)).¹⁶²⁶

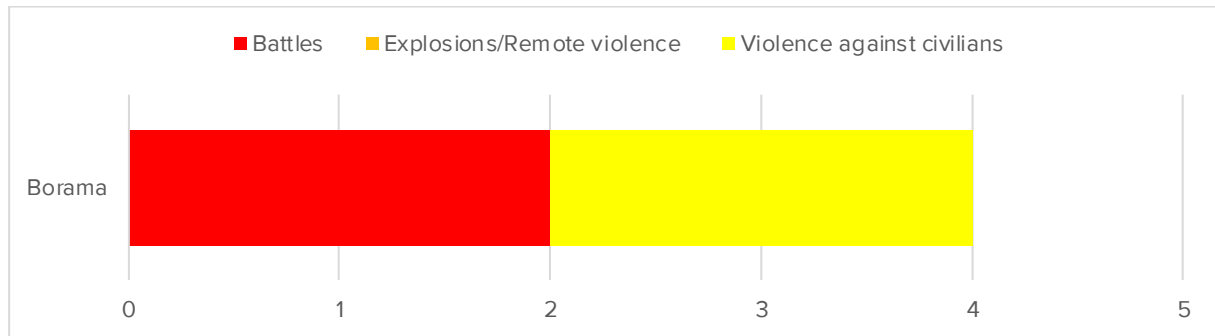


Figure 45. Awdal – Breakdown of security incidents per district from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁶²⁷

For the reference period, ACLED reported police and military forces of Somaliland being involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)¹⁶²⁸ in three security incidents (two incidents coded as ‘battles,’ and one as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in two fatalities in Awdal administrative region, while an unidentified clan militia was involved in one incident resulting in three fatalities.¹⁶²⁹

While no overall dataset could be found on the number of conflict-related civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) in the region, [Table 17](#) shows the numbers of incidents and estimated fatalities (without distinction as to civilian and non-civilian) in Awdal region that were recorded by ACLED between July 2021 and end of November 2022, by type of incident:

Awdal	Number of incidents	Number of estimated fatalities
Battles	2	1
Explosions/Remote violence	0	0
Violence against civilians	2	4
Total	4	5

Table 17. Awdal – number of security incidents and fatalities by type of incident for the period between July 2021 and September 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁶³⁰

All of the five fatalities recorded in Awdal between July 2021 and end of November 2022 were reported in Borama district.¹⁶³¹

¹⁶²⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶²⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶²⁸ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁶²⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶³⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶³¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

Illustrative security incidents with (high) impact on civilians¹⁶³²

On 27 March 2022, armed men clashed with Somaliland police at a gold mining site near Borama, wounding the deputy commander of the Awdal Police Department and a soldier.¹⁶³³

On 12 May 2022, three civilians were killed in Borama town. Allegedly, the killings were related to clan tensions.¹⁶³⁴

Conflict-related displacement

Between July 2021 and November 2022, the UNHCR PRMN¹⁶³⁵ recorded no conflict- or insecurity-related displacements from or to Awdal.¹⁶³⁶

Other impacts on civilian life

UNOCHA documented no humanitarian access incidents¹⁶³⁷ in Awdal region between July and September 2021, and between January and March 2022.¹⁶³⁸ No data was available for the period between October and December 2021 and between April and November 2022.

Data accessed through the NRC Eviction Information Portal¹⁶³⁹ recorded 391 individuals being forcibly evicted¹⁶⁴⁰ in Awdal region (all in Borama district) for the period July 2021 to November 2022.¹⁶⁴¹

The DSA conducted by the REACH and the CCCM Cluster in November and December 2021 indicated that the 'proportion of assessed sites where [key informants] reported perceiving a very high risk of forced eviction' was 0 % in Baki, Borama, and Lughaye districts.¹⁶⁴²

¹⁶³² The following is a selection of incidents and does not claim to be representative in any sense. Moreover, please note that security incidents related to clan conflicts do not always receive local media attention and hence might go under-reported in Somalia. Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶³³ Radio Dalsan, Faah faahin: Iska horimaad ka dhacay duleedka Boorama iyo Taliye ku dhaawacmay [Details: Clash outside Boorama and commander injured], 27 March 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶³⁴ Radio Risaala, Dilal ka dhacay Magaalada Boorama ee Somaliland [Killings in Boorama Town in Somaliland], 13 May 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶³⁵ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁶³⁶ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶³⁷ Such incidents include the following types: 'ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance', 'ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance' and 'armed hostilities preventing access'.

UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶³⁸ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#)

UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 1 (January - March 2022), 17 July 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶³⁹ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁶⁴⁰ NRC defines 'forced evictions' as the 'removal against their will of people from their homes and/or land which they occupy, without any form of legal or other protection'. NRC, An Unnecessary Burden: Forced Evictions and Covid-19, 1 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1

¹⁶⁴¹ NRC, Eviction Information Portal, Data Sets, Somalia – July 2021-November 2022, as of 9 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁴² REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Awdal Region, March 2022, [url](#), pp. 4; 8; 12

2.8.2. Wogoyi Galbeed

(a) Background

Wogoyi Galbeed region borders the regions of Awdal, Sanaag and Togdheer and the Gulf of Aden and shares an international border with Ethiopia. It consists of three districts: Gebiley, Hargeysa and Berbera. The region's capital is Hargeysa. Hargeysa is also the capital of Somaliland.¹⁶⁴³

Wogoyi Galbeed is mainly inhabited by the Habar Awal, the Habar Yunis and Idagalle clans. Hargeysa is home to various clans and sub-clans, mainly Habar Awal, Habar Yunis, Habar Jeelo, Idagalle, but also minority groups.¹⁶⁴⁴

A December 2022 IPC document listed the population of Wogoyi Galbeed as 1 313 146 in 2022.¹⁶⁴⁵ UNOCHA estimated the population of Wogoyi Galbeed in 2021 at 1 224 717 (including 217 278 men, 202 661 women, 752 312 children, and 52 466 elderly people).¹⁶⁴⁶ The 2014 Population Estimation Survey conducted by UNFPA and Somali authorities¹⁶⁴⁷ estimated that the population¹⁶⁴⁸ of Wogoyi Galbeed was 1 242 003, of whom 802 740 lived in urban areas, 138 912 in rural areas, and 255 761 were nomads.¹⁶⁴⁹ For figures on IDPs, see subsection below on conflict-related displacement.

(b) Actors' presence and conflict dynamics

Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence (along with other actors)

[Map 4. Somalia - Approximate Territorial Control](#) shows no Al-Shabaab presence in Wogoyi Galbeed region as of 30 November 2022. According to the map, the whole region, including the towns of Gebiley, Berbera, and Hargeysa, is controlled by Somaliland forces.¹⁶⁵⁰ Another map by Political Geography Now, as of 30 June 2021, shows identical control areas as the more recent October 2022 map mentioned above.¹⁶⁵¹

Conflict dynamics

No information on major current conflict dynamics in Wogoyi Galbeed could be found.

¹⁶⁴³ MSF, Somalia – General Reference Map, 11 October 2022, [url](#); UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#)

¹⁶⁴⁴ Gundel, J., interview, 7 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 146

¹⁶⁴⁵ IPC, Nearly 8.3 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes [Table], 13 December 2022, [url](#), p. 4

¹⁶⁴⁶ UNOCHA, Somalia – 2021 Population Figures and Disaggregation, 7 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶⁴⁷ According to the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) of 2020, the 2014 Population Estimation Survey of Somalia 'is the most recent nationwide population estimation exercise undertaken in Somalia.' Somalia, NBS, The Somali Health and Demographic Survey 2020, 30 April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

¹⁶⁴⁸ As of 2022, the 2014 estimates remain the figures used in the latest official publications of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). See e.g., Somalia, Somalia Data Portal, Population – Dashboards, 1 March 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁴⁹ UNFPA, Population Estimation Survey 2014, Somalia, October 2014, [url](#), p. 31

¹⁶⁵⁰ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source

¹⁶⁵¹ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 June 2021, n.a., non-public source

In June 2022, protests in connection with planned elections were held in Hargeysa, and people were injured when security forces used live ammunition to disperse the protests.¹⁶⁵² Further protests were reported in August 2022 in Hargeysa, Burco and Ceerigaabo cities.¹⁶⁵³ According to a report by the Somaliland Standing and Ethics Committee, 3 civilians were killed and 34 injured in Hargeysa.¹⁶⁵⁴

For information regarding clan disputes and conflict up until 30 June 2021, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

(c) Recent security incidents and trends

Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), civilian casualties

In the reference period, ACLED reported 8 security incidents in Wogoyi Galbeed region, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violent acts against civilians, causing 8 fatalities ([Figure 46](#)).¹⁶⁵⁵

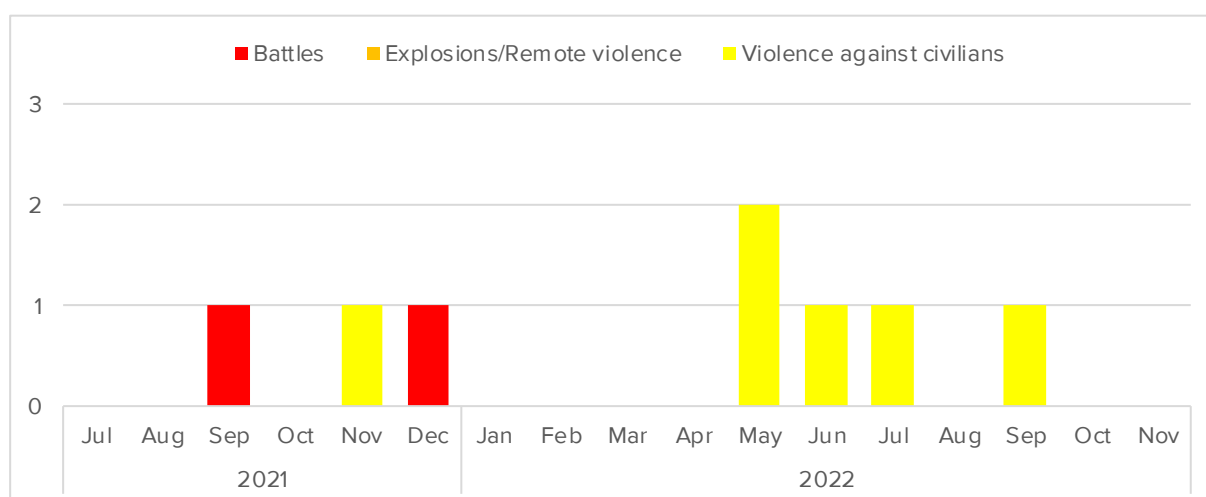


Figure 46. Wogoyi Galbeed – Evolution of security incidents coded battles, explosion/remote violence and violence against civilians from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁶⁵⁶

At the district level, Hargeysa recorded the highest number of security incidents between July 2021 and November 2022 (7 incidents), followed by Gebiley district (1 incident) ([Figure 47](#)).¹⁶⁵⁷

¹⁶⁵² International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch: Tracking Conflict Worldwide, Somaliland – June 2022, n.d., [url](#); Halbeeg, Ten injured in Somaliland protests, security forces ‘fire into crowd’, 9 June 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁵³ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch: Tracking Conflict Worldwide, Somaliland – August 2022, n.d., [url](#); SG, Somaliland: 3 killed, 89 injured in opposition protests, 11 August 2022, [url](#); SG, Somaliland president orders probe into opposition protest casualties, 17 August 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁵⁴ Republic of Somaliland (The), The House of Representatives, The Standing And Ethics Committee, Report about the 11th of August 2022 protest, n.d., [url](#), pp. 9-10

¹⁶⁵⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁵⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁵⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

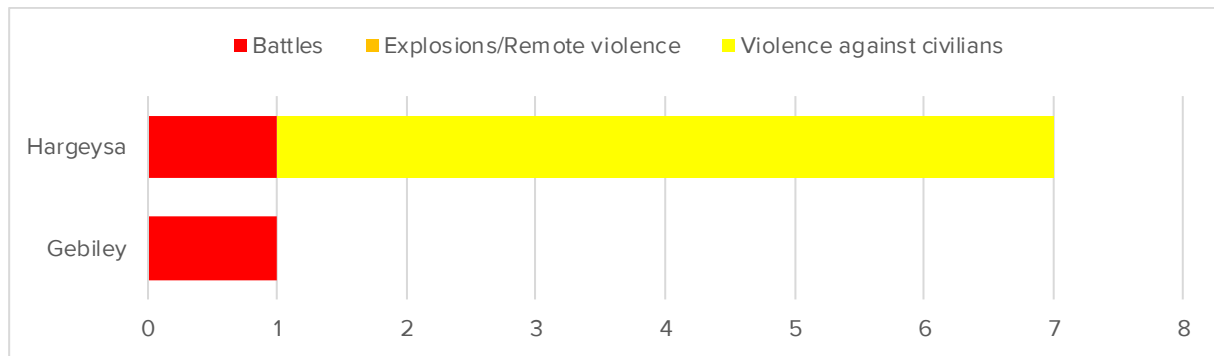


Figure 47. Wogoyi Galbeed – Breakdown of security incidents per district from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁶⁵⁸

For the reference period, ACLED reported that police and military forces of Somaliland were involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)¹⁶⁵⁹ in 5 security incidents in the Wogoyi Galbeed administrative region (2 incidents coded as ‘battles’ and 3 as ‘violence against civilians’) resulting in 5 fatalities. Clan militias and unidentified armed groups were involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 5 incidents resulting in 3 fatalities.¹⁶⁶⁰

While no overall dataset could be found on the number of conflict-related civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) in the region, [Table 18](#) shows the numbers of incidents and estimated fatalities (without distinction as to civilian and non-civilian) in Wogoyi Galbeed region that were recorded by ACLED between July 2021 and the end of November 2022, by type of incident:

Wogoyi Galbeed	Number of incidents	Number of estimated fatalities
Battles	2	0
Explosions/Remote violence	0	0
Violence against civilians	6	8
Total	8	8

Table 18. Wogoyi Galbeed – number of security incidents and fatalities by type of incident for the period between July 2021 and September 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁶⁶¹

All of the 8 fatalities recorded in Wogoyi Galbeed between July 2021 and the end of November 2022 were reported in Hargeysa district. When focusing on incidents coded by ACLED as ‘violence against civilians’, all of the 6 incidents were reported in Hargeysa district, causing 8 fatalities.¹⁶⁶²

¹⁶⁵⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁵⁹ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁶⁶⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁶¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁶² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)



Illustrative security incidents with (high) impact on civilians¹⁶⁶³

On 2 May 2022, a Somaliland police officer reportedly killed a woman following a dispute over parking space. A week later the officer was sentenced to death by a Somaliland military court.¹⁶⁶⁴

Conflict-related displacement

Between July 2021 and November 2022, the UNHCR PRMN¹⁶⁶⁵ recorded no conflict- or insecurity-related displacements from or to Wogoyi Galbeed.¹⁶⁶⁶ In the same period, conflict and insecurity resulted in 151 individuals arriving in Wogoyi Galbeed from other regions, mostly from Sanaag region (129 individuals). All individuals arrived in Hargeysa district.¹⁶⁶⁷

Other impacts on civilian life

UNOCHA documented nine humanitarian access incident¹⁶⁶⁸ in Hargeysa and Berbera districts between July and September 2021¹⁶⁶⁹ and two incidents in Hargeysa district between January and March 2022.¹⁶⁷⁰ No such data was available for the period between October and December 2021 and between April and November 2022.

Data accessed through the NRC Eviction Information Portal¹⁶⁷¹ recorded 5 378 individuals being forcibly evicted¹⁶⁷² in Wogoyi Galbeed region (5 336 in Hargeysa district, 42 in Berbera district) during the period July 2021 to November 2022.¹⁶⁷³

The DSA conducted by the REACH and the CCCM Cluster in November and December 2021 indicated that the 'proportion of assessed sites where [key informants] reported perceiving a very high risk of forced eviction', was 27 % in Hargeysa-district.¹⁶⁷⁴

¹⁶⁶³ The following is a selection of incidents and does not claim to be representative in any sense. Moreover, please note that security incidents related to clan conflicts do not always receive local media attention and hence might go under-reported in Somalia. Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶⁶⁴ Radio Dalsan, Somaliland military court hands death penalty to a military officer over killing of a civilian, 9 May 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁶⁵ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁶⁶⁶ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁶⁷ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁶⁸ Such incidents include the following types: 'ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance', 'ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance' and 'armed hostilities preventing access'.

UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶⁶⁹ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶⁷⁰ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 1 (January - March 2022), 17 July 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁷¹ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁶⁷² NRC defines 'forced evictions' as the 'removal against their will of people from their homes and/or land which they occupy, without any form of legal or other protection'. NRC, An Unnecessary Burden: Forced Evictions and Covid-19, 1 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1

¹⁶⁷³ NRC, Eviction Information Portal, Data Sets, Somalia – July 2021-November 2022, as of 9 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁷⁴ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Woqooyi Galbeed Region, March 2022, [url](#), p. 4



2.8.3. Togdheer

(a) Background

Togdheer region (or Togdhere) borders the regions of Wogoyi Galbeed, Sool, and Sanaag and shares an international border with Ethiopia. It consists of four districts: Sheikh, Owdweyne, Burco (or Burao) and Buhodle (or Buuhoodle). The region's capital is Burco (or Burao).¹⁶⁷⁵

Togdheer region is mainly inhabited by Habar Yunis and Habar Jeelo clans. Members of the Idagalle are inhabiting the area west of Burco, along with other minority sub-clans that are considered to be part of the Habar Yunis clan.¹⁶⁷⁶ However, nearly all inhabitants of Buuhoodle are members of the Dhulbahante clan (mainly Reer Hagar sub-clan).¹⁶⁷⁷

A December 2022 IPC document listed the population of Togdheer as 780 092 in 2022.¹⁶⁷⁸ UNOCHA estimated the population of Togdheer in 2021 at 728 223 (including 124 357 men, 126 973 women, 455 076 children, and 21 817 elderly people).¹⁶⁷⁹ The 2014 Population Estimation Survey conducted by UNFPA and Somali authorities¹⁶⁸⁰ estimated that the population¹⁶⁸¹ of Togdheer at 721 363, of whom 483 724 lived in urban areas, 57 356 in rural areas, and 154 523 were nomads.¹⁶⁸² For figures on IDPs, see subsection below on conflict-related displacement.

(b) Actors' presence and conflict dynamics

Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence (along with other actors)

[Map 4. Somalia - Approximate Territorial Control](#) shows no Al-Shabaab presence in Togdheer region as of 30 November 2022. According to the map, nearly the whole region is controlled by Somaliland forces (including the towns of Burco and Owdweyne), with the exception of Buhodle town and its surroundings (mixed, unclear and/or local control between Somaliland and Puntland authorities). The map also mentions Buhodle as the centre of the Khatumo statehood movement.¹⁶⁸³

¹⁶⁷⁵ MSF, Somalia – General Reference Map, 11 October 2022, [url](#); UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Map, 31 July 2017, [url](#)

¹⁶⁷⁶ Gundel, J., interview, 7 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 150

¹⁶⁷⁷ Höhne, Markus, Expertenansicht zu Somalia: Region Buuhodle: Konflikte zwischen Stämmen Hayaag und Reer Hagar (beide Dhulbahante) im August 2019 [Expert advice on Somalia: Buuhodle region: Conflicts between Hayaag and Reer Hagar (both Dhulbahante) tribes in August 2019], ACCORD, 9 April 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶⁷⁸ IPC, Nearly 8.3 million people across Somalia face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity outcomes [Table], 13 December 2022, [url](#), p. 4

¹⁶⁷⁹ UNOCHA, Somalia – 2021 Population Figures and Disaggregation, 7 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶⁸⁰ According to the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) of 2020, the 2014 Population Estimation Survey of Somalia 'is the most recent nationwide population estimation exercise undertaken in Somalia.' Somalia, NBS, The Somali Health and Demographic Survey 2020, 30 April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

¹⁶⁸¹ As of 2022, the 2014 estimates remain the figures used in the latest official publications of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). See e.g., Somalia, Somalia Data Portal, Population – Dashboards, 1 March 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁸² UNFPA, Population Estimation Survey 2014, Somalia, October 2014, [url](#), p. 31

¹⁶⁸³ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 30 November 2022, n.a., non-public source



Conflict dynamics

In October 2021, leaders of the Khatumo state movement¹⁶⁸⁴ announced their withdrawal from their previous agreement with the Somaliland government (signed with previous Somaliland president Silanyo in October 2017¹⁶⁸⁵).¹⁶⁸⁶ In November 2021, 200 soldiers reportedly joined the Sool, Sanaag, and Cayn (SSC) rebel group after defecting from the Somaliland army.¹⁶⁸⁷ SSC officials welcomed them in Buhodle.¹⁶⁸⁸

In June 2022 military operations of Puntland security forces were reported in Buhodle district¹⁶⁸⁹ following the deployment of members of the Dervish Forces of Puntland (army) to the district.¹⁶⁹⁰ The operations targeted members of the Somaliland government.¹⁶⁹¹ In November 2022, clashes were reported in Buhodle between Puntland's Dervish forces and Somaliland forces.¹⁶⁹² The Somaliland administration reportedly had deployed a large number of troops to areas near Buhodle, and the situation was tense as of 5 December 2022.¹⁶⁹³

In August 2022 protests in connection with planned elections were reported in Hargeysa, Burco and Ceerigaabo cities.¹⁶⁹⁴ According to a report by the Somaliland Standing and Ethics Committee, one civilian was killed and 42 injured in Burco.¹⁶⁹⁵ In mid-November 2022, at least seven people were injured in further protests in Burco.¹⁶⁹⁶

According to Joakim Gundel, interviewed in July 2021, in the Buuhoodle area there are frequent disputes revolving around water wells. However, these disputes are often linked to clan growth and expansion dynamics.¹⁶⁹⁷

For more detailed information regarding clan disputes and conflict up until 30 June 2021, please see EASO's previous report on [Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#).

¹⁶⁸⁴ Geeska Afrika, Somaliland: Khatumo State Dream Officially dead?, 8 October 2020, [url](#)

¹⁶⁸⁵ BBC News Somali, Somaliland iyo Khatumo oo kala saxiixday heshiisyo dhowr ah [Somaliland and Khatumo have signed several agreements], 17 October 2017, [url](#)

¹⁶⁸⁶ Hiiraan Online, Khaatumo oo ku dhawaaqday go'aan Somaliland ka dhan ah [Khatumo announced a decision against Somaliland], 27 October 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶⁸⁷ Hiiraan Online, Ciidamo ka goostay millateriga Somaliland oo ku biiray jabhada SSC [Troops defected from the Somaliland military and joined the SSC rebellion], 18 November 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶⁸⁸ Mogadishu Times, Ciidamo ka tirsan Somaliland oo u goostay Jabhadda SSC [Somaliland troops defected to the SSC Front], 17 November 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶⁸⁹ SD, Puntland forces target Somaliland officials in Buhodle, 4 June 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁹⁰ Puntland Times, DAAWO: Puntland oo boqolaal Askari geysay Buuhoodle, 25 May 2022, [url](#); SD, Puntland deploys hundreds of newly trained troops to Buhodle, 26 May 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁹¹ SD, Puntland forces target Somaliland officials in Buhodle, 4 June 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁹² Hiiraan Online, Dagaal dhexmaray Ciidamada Somaliland iyo Puntland ee deegaanka Buuhoodle, 22 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁹³ Horseed Media, Xiisad dagaal oo u dhexaysa Puntland & Somaliland oo ka taagan degaanno hoostaga degmada Buuhoodle, 5 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁹⁴ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch: Tracking Conflict Worldwide, Somaliland – August 2022, n.d., [url](#); SG, Somaliland: 3 killed, 89 injured in opposition protests, 11 August 2022, [url](#); SG, Somaliland president orders probe into opposition protest casualties, 17 August 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁹⁵ Republic of Somaliland (The), The House of Representatives, The Standing And Ethics Committee, Report about the 11th of August 2022 protest, n.d., [url](#), pp. 9-10

¹⁶⁹⁶ Crisis 24, Somalia: Further unrest and heightened security likely in Somaliland through at least mid-December following protest Nov. 13, 14 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁹⁷ Gundel, J., interview, 7 July 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#)



(c) Recent security incidents and trends

Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), civilian casualties

In the reference period, ACLED reported 11 security incidents, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violent acts against civilians in Togdheer region, causing 8 fatalities ([Figure 48](#)).¹⁶⁹⁸

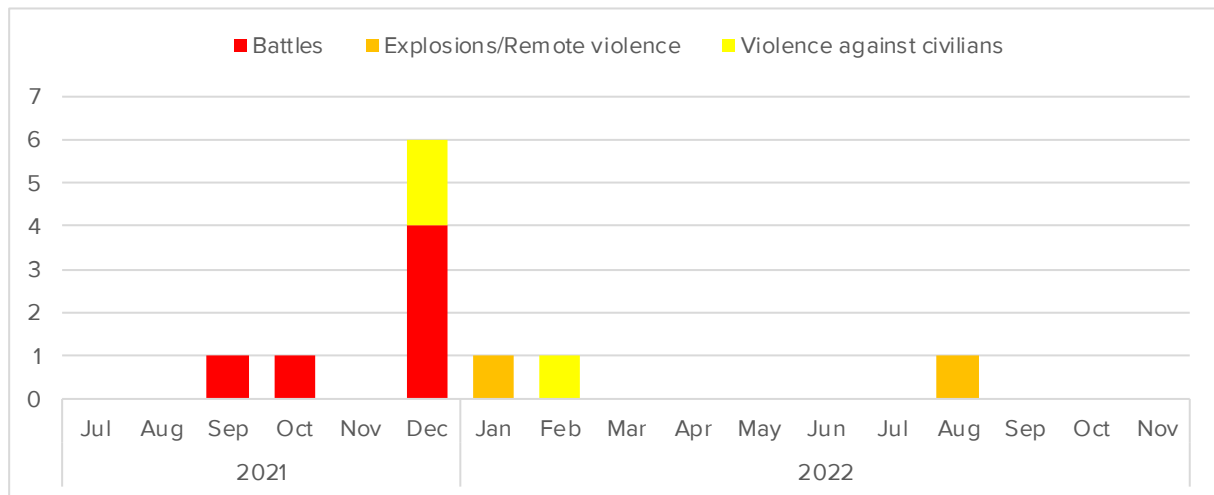


Figure 48. Togdheer - Evolution of security incidents coded battles, explosion/remote violence and violence against civilians from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁶⁹⁹

At the district level, Buuhoodle recorded the highest number of security incidents between July 2021 and November 2022 (6 incidents), followed by Burco and Owdweyne¹⁷⁰⁰ districts (2 incidents each) ([Figure 49](#)).¹⁷⁰¹

¹⁶⁹⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁶⁹⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁷⁰⁰ These two incidents dated 6 and 10 December 2021, may have been falsely attributed to the district by ACLED and may have actually taken place in Bari Region, Puntland. See for example ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, SOM35561 [source: Radio Risaala; Radio Kulmiye], [url](#); Radio Risaala, Ciidamada Puntland oo howlgallo ka wada Buuraleyda Gobolka Bari [Puntland forces are conducting operations in the mountains of Bari region], 6 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁷⁰¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

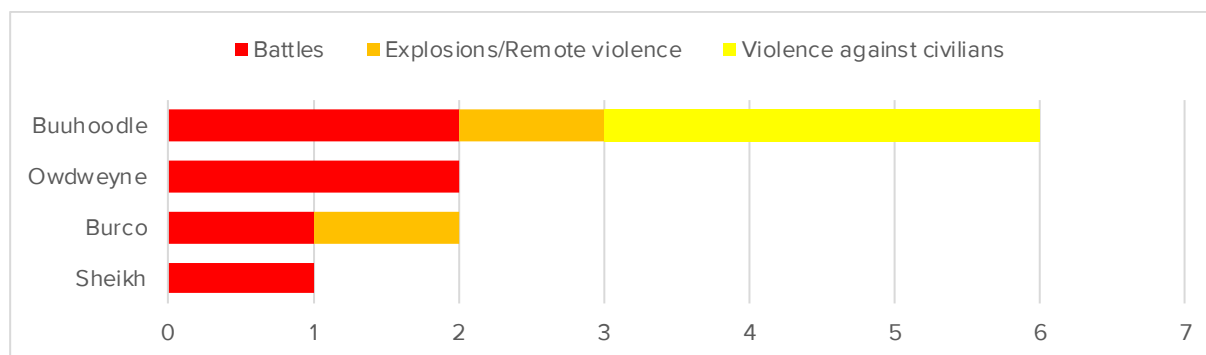


Figure 49. Togdheer– Breakdown of security incidents per district from July 2021 to November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁷⁰²

For the reference period, ACLED reported that military and police forces of Somaliland were involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’)¹⁷⁰³ in 4 security incidents in the Togdheer administrative region (all incidents were coded as ‘battles’) resulting in 1 fatality, while clan militias were involved (coded as either ‘Actor1’ or ‘Actor2’) in 4 incidents resulting in 3 fatalities¹⁷⁰⁴

While no overall dataset could be found on the number of conflict-related civilian casualties (deaths and injuries) in the region, [Table 19](#) shows the numbers of incidents and estimated fatalities (without distinction as to civilian and non-civilian) in Togdheer region that were recorded by ACLED between July 2021 and the end of November 2022, by type of incident:

Togdheer	Number of incidents	Number of estimated fatalities
Battles	6	4
Explosions/Remote violence	2	1
Violence against civilians	3	3
Total	11	8

Table 19. Togdheer – number of security incidents and fatalities by type of incident for the period between July 2021 and November 2022, based on ACLED data.¹⁷⁰⁵

Of the 8 fatalities recorded in Togdheer between July 2021 and the end of November 2022, most were reported in Buuhoodle and Owdweyne districts, with 3 fatalities each. When focusing on incidents coded by ACLED as ‘violence against civilians’, all of the 3 recorded incidents that caused in total 3 fatalities were reported in Buuhoodle district.¹⁷⁰⁶

¹⁷⁰² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁷⁰³ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁷⁰⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁷⁰⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁷⁰⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 July 2021 to 30 November 2022, as of 8 December 2022, [url](#)

Illustrative security incidents with (high) impact on civilians¹⁷⁰⁷

On 3 December 2021, one person was killed and another was injured when armed militiamen fired on civilians in Balig in the Gadaale area. The motive was reportedly clan-related.¹⁷⁰⁸

Conflict-related displacement

Between July 2021 and November 2022, 13 individuals were newly displaced from Togdheer due to conflict or insecurity, according to the UNHCR PRMN.¹⁷⁰⁹ All individuals were displaced to Hargeysa district in Wogoyi Galbeed region. No conflict- or insecurity-related displacements to or within Togdheer region were recorded in the same period.¹⁷¹⁰

Other impacts on civilian life

UNOCHA documented one humanitarian access incident¹⁷¹¹ in Burco district between July and September 2021¹⁷¹² and no such incidents between January and March 2022.¹⁷¹³ No such data was available for the period between October and December 2021 and between April and November 2022.

Data accessed through the NRC Eviction Information Portal¹⁷¹⁴ recorded 487 individuals being forcibly evicted¹⁷¹⁵ in Togdheer region (379 in Burco district, 108 in Buhoodle district) during the period from July 2021 to November 2022.¹⁷¹⁶ The DSA conducted by the REACH and the CCCM Cluster in November and December 2021 indicated that the 'proportion of assessed sites where [key informants] reported perceiving a very high risk of forced eviction', was 0 % across Burco, Buhoodle, Owdweyne, and Sheikh districts.¹⁷¹⁷

2.8.4. Somaliland – Checkpoints and road security

Regarding internal mobility and security, an expert on security issues in Somalia interviewed in August 2021, noted that in Somaliland, both the average Somali and government officials can in general freely move around without 'too many security concerns', with the route from

¹⁷⁰⁷ The following is a selection of incidents and does not claim to be representative in any sense. Moreover, please note that security incidents related to clan conflicts do not always receive local media attention and hence might go under-reported in Somalia. Menkhaus, K., input from external review, 27 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#)

¹⁷⁰⁸ Radio Risaala, Maleeshiyaad hubeysan oo dil & dhaawac u geystay Dad Shacab ah [Armed militants killed and injured civilians], 3 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁷⁰⁹ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁷¹⁰ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 12 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁷¹¹ Such incidents include the following types: 'ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance', 'ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance' and 'armed hostilities preventing access'.

UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁷¹² UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 3 (July - September 2021), 23 December 2021, [url](#)

¹⁷¹³ UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Overview – Quarter 1 (January - March 2022), 17 July 2022, [url](#)

¹⁷¹⁴ For further information on this data and their handling, please see the section on [Methodology](#) in the introductory chapter of this report.

¹⁷¹⁵ NRC defines 'forced evictions' as the 'removal against their will of people from their homes and/or land which they occupy, without any form of legal or other protection'. NRC, An Unnecessary Burden: Forced Evictions and Covid-19, 1 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1

¹⁷¹⁶ NRC, Eviction Information Portal, Data Sets, Somalia – July 2021-November 2022, as of 9 December 2022, [url](#)

¹⁷¹⁷ REACH and CCCM Cluster, Somalia Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Togdheer Region, March 2022, [url](#), p. 4



Berbera to Hargeysa in general being safe. Since there is very limited Al-Shabaab presence, goods and supplies travel back and forth.¹⁷¹⁸

¹⁷¹⁸ International expert VIII, interview, 3 August 2021. As cited in EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), p. 155



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Annex II: Terms of Reference

TOR – Security Situation

Reference period 1 July 2021 – 30 November 2022

1. General description of the security situation in Somalia
 - 1.1. Recent political and security developments
 - 1.2. Armed actors
 - 1.2.1. Al-Shabaab control areas, presence, and influence (overview and relevant map)
 - 1.2.2. Other armed actors
 - 1.3. Layers of conflict
 - 1.4. Recent security incidents and trends
 - 1.4.1. Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), estimated civilian fatalities
 - 1.4.2. Conflict-related displacement
 - 1.4.3. Other impacts on civilian life (e.g. infrastructure damage, evictions)
 - 1.4.4. Checkpoints and road security in Somalia
 - 1.5. Documents for accessing and leaving Somalia, including Somaliland (by land and air)
 - 1.5.1 Somalia
 - 1.5.2 Somaliland
2. Regional security situation and trends
 - 2.1. Jubbaland
 - 2.1.1. Gedo
 - 2.1.1.1. Background
 - 2.1.1.2. Actors presence and conflict dynamics
 - 2.1.1.2.1. Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence (along with other actors)
 - 2.1.1.2.2. Conflict dynamics
 - 2.1.1.3. Recent security incidents and trends
 - 2.1.1.3.1. Security incidents (battles, remote violence, violence against civilians), civilian casualties
 - 2.1.1.3.2. Illustrative security incidents (ACLED, but also other sources)
 - 2.1.1.3.3. Conflict-related displacement
 - 2.1.1.3.4. Other impacts on civilian life (e.g. infrastructure damage, evictions)
 - 2.1.2. Middle Juba [the same structure as in Gedo will apply for all regions]
 - 2.1.3. Lower Juba



- 2.1.4. Jubbaland - Checkpoints and road security
- 2.2. South West
 - 2.2.1. Bakool
 - 2.2.2. Bay
 - 2.2.3. Lower Shabelle
 - 2.2.4. South-West State – Checkpoints and road security
- 2.3. Benadir and Mogadishu [same structure as in Gedo, including information on checkpoints and road security]
- 2.4. Hirshabelle
 - 2.4.1. Hiraan
 - 2.4.2. Middle Shabelle
 - 2.4.3. Hirshabelle – Checkpoints and road security
- 2.5. Galmudug
 - 2.5.1. Galgaduud
 - 2.5.2. Mudug
 - 2.5.3. Galmudug – Checkpoints and road security
- 2.6. Puntland
 - 2.6.1. Nugal
 - 2.6.2. Bari
 - 2.6.3. Puntland – Checkpoints and road security
- 2.7. Contested areas between Puntland and Somaliland
 - 2.7.1. Sool
 - 2.7.2. Sanaag
 - 2.7.3. Contested areas – Checkpoints and road security
- 2.8. Somaliland
 - 2.8.1. Awdal
 - 2.8.2. Wogoyi Galbeed
 - 2.8.3. Togdheer
 - 2.8.4. Somaliland - Checkpoints and road security





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