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South-Central Somalia

Country fact-sheet

July 2014

NOTE: for the purpose of this document, “South-Central Somalia” comprises the regions of Banadir, Bakool, Bay, Gedo, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Hiraaan and Galgaduud. The information contained in this fact-sheet is based on first-hand data collected by DRC field staff unless otherwise indicated. Confidential sources are undisclosed. Due to political instability, to scarcity of reliable data and to access challenges, the information contained here may be incomplete and subject to frequent changes.



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1. Documentation

1.1 Documents needed in the country of return

Individuals in possession of a valid non-Somali passport can obtain an entry visa upon arrival at the international airport of Mogadishu. The single entry visa to Somalia costs USD 50 and is valid for one month. A six-month multiple-entry visa can be issued to foreigners in 48 hours upon submission of a presentation letter from a local employer and payment of USD 300.

Somali nationals returning from abroad (both forcibly and voluntarily) with no valid passport are generally issued a temporary travel document (*laissez-passer*) from the country of departure.

The Somali National Government (SNG) has recently made plans to roll out ID cards to Somali nationals. However, at the time of writing (July 2014), the process has come to a halt due to lack of resources, and ID cards are not currently being issued. It is advisable for Somali nationals not in possession of a valid identification documents to obtain a clearance certificate from the National Security Agency (NSA).

1.2 How to obtain necessary documents

Costs and procedures to obtain necessary documents are subject to frequent change. The information provided below is valid as of July 2014.

NSA clearance. This document is issued to Somali nationals above 18 years of age with a clean criminal record. To process the application, the NSA requires a payment of USD 10, to be deposited in advance in their account (either with Dahabshiil or with Salama bank). Receipt of the deposit must be submitted to the NSA office in Mogadishu, where the applicant is finger-printed and cleared in about 30 minutes.

ID card. As stated above, no ID cards are currently being issued in Somalia. The information included here refers to the procedure in place until April 2014. NSA clearance is required to obtain the national ID card. ID cards used to be issued by the Immigration Office in approximately two weeks after presentation of: (i) NSA clearance; (ii) four passport-size photos; (iii) proof of payment of USD 18 to the Immigration Office account in Dahabshiil or Salama Bank.

Passport. NSA clearance is required to obtain a passport. Applicants must present the following documentation to the Immigration Office: (i) NSA clearance; (ii) four passport-size photos; (iii) proof of payment of USD 92 to the Immigration Office account in Dahabshiil or Salama Bank. Passports are generally issued in two weeks.

1.3 Price of necessary documents

NSA clearance costs USD 10 and is required to obtain both the ID card and the passport. The ID card used to cost an additional USD 18; the passport costs an additional USD 92. This doesn't include the price of passport-size photos.

2. Access to return area

2.1 Limitations on internal travel

According to the latest UNHCR position paper on returns to South-Central Somalia (June 2014), “the security situation in many parts of Southern and Central Somalia continues to be volatile¹ and the capacity of the State and its institutions to protect civilians residing there remains weak, including at local level. Protracted armed conflict has had devastating consequences, including massive displacement, weakened community structures, gross human rights violations and the breakdown of law and order. Large parts of Southern and Central Somalia remain under the effective control of non-state armed groups”.

“In March 2014, the Somali National Security Forces (SNSF) and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) launched a military offensive against such groups, known as Operation Eagle. The ongoing operation has, so far, led to the displacement of about 73,000 persons. Human rights abuses are reported in areas where military activities take place, although verification of these reports remains a challenge due to insecurity and access constraints. Transit routes to and from key towns are unsafe as criminal elements have established illegal checkpoints where they are reported to harass and extort money and valuables from IDPs. Even where the State has re-established territorial control, local civilian governance, including functioning justice and security structures, will need to be rebuilt. The situation in these areas is expected to remain fragile for some time” (UNHCR, 2014).²

See the table in Annex for a detailed risk mapping of Mogadishu districts.

2.1.1 Administrative restrictions

No administrative restriction is in place for travels within South-Central Somalia. No restriction is formally in place for movements between South-Central Somalia and Puntland, but travellers are frequently interrogated at checkpoint posts regarding the motives or their visit. A valid passport is required to fly from Mogadishu to Hargeisa (Somaliland); the entry visa to Somaliland can be obtained upon arrival.

2.1.2 Practical obstacles

The unstable security situation and the presence of checkpoints along the main routes pose challenges to overland movements within South-Central Somalia, in particular:

Mogadishu to Marka. Illegal checkpoints are still present along the road, harassing and extorting money from drivers, traders and passengers. Since 2006, Lower Shabelle has been characterized by unstable power relations. The conflict between local clans and the Hawiye clans that entered the region in the 1990s still flares up occasionally, particularly

¹ IRIN, *Security Downturn in Mogadishu*, 9 April 2014, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/5379ca534.html>; UN News Service, Somalia, *UN Envoy Condemns Recent Outbreaks of Deadly Violence in Baidoa*, 24 March 2014, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/533950634.html>; IRIN, *Short-term Costs of Military Gains in Somalia*, 21 March 2014, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/53394c044.html>; UN Secretary-General Report on Somalia, 3 March 2014, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/531ef31f4.html>.

² For an overview on the general security situation, also see the Secretary-General Reports on Somalia (UN, Dec. 2013) and the latest Monitoring Group Report on Somalia and Eritrea (UN, 2013).

between the Haber Gedir clan Ayr and the Biimaal clan in the Marka area. As of July 2014, the Haber Gedir seem to have taken control of Marka. Members of militarily weak clans are generally more at risk. Al-Shabaab (AS) carries out frequent attacks against AMISOM and government forces through road-side bombs, improvised explosive devices (IED) and ambushes. Civilians are often caught in the crossfire.

Mogadishu to Kisimayu. Road infrastructure South of the AS stronghold of Barawe is extremely poor. Kisimayu was recaptured from AS by AMISOM and government forces in September 2012. However, sporadic AS activity is still present along the road, posing a threat to goods and passengers. There are frequent checkpoints, both AS- and government controlled, on the road from Marka to Kisimayu, and the route cannot be considered safe.

Mogadishu to Beletweyne. The route is long and exposed to significant risks. Part of it may be unpassable during rainy seasons. Beletweyne is now controlled by the Djiboutian forces and it's used as a base for the AMISOM offensive against residual AS-controlled areas. The city has changed leadership on several occasions during the past years and, while the security situation is improving, it is still exposed to occasional hit-and-run and terrorist attacks by AS (a recent major attack killed 19 in October 2013).

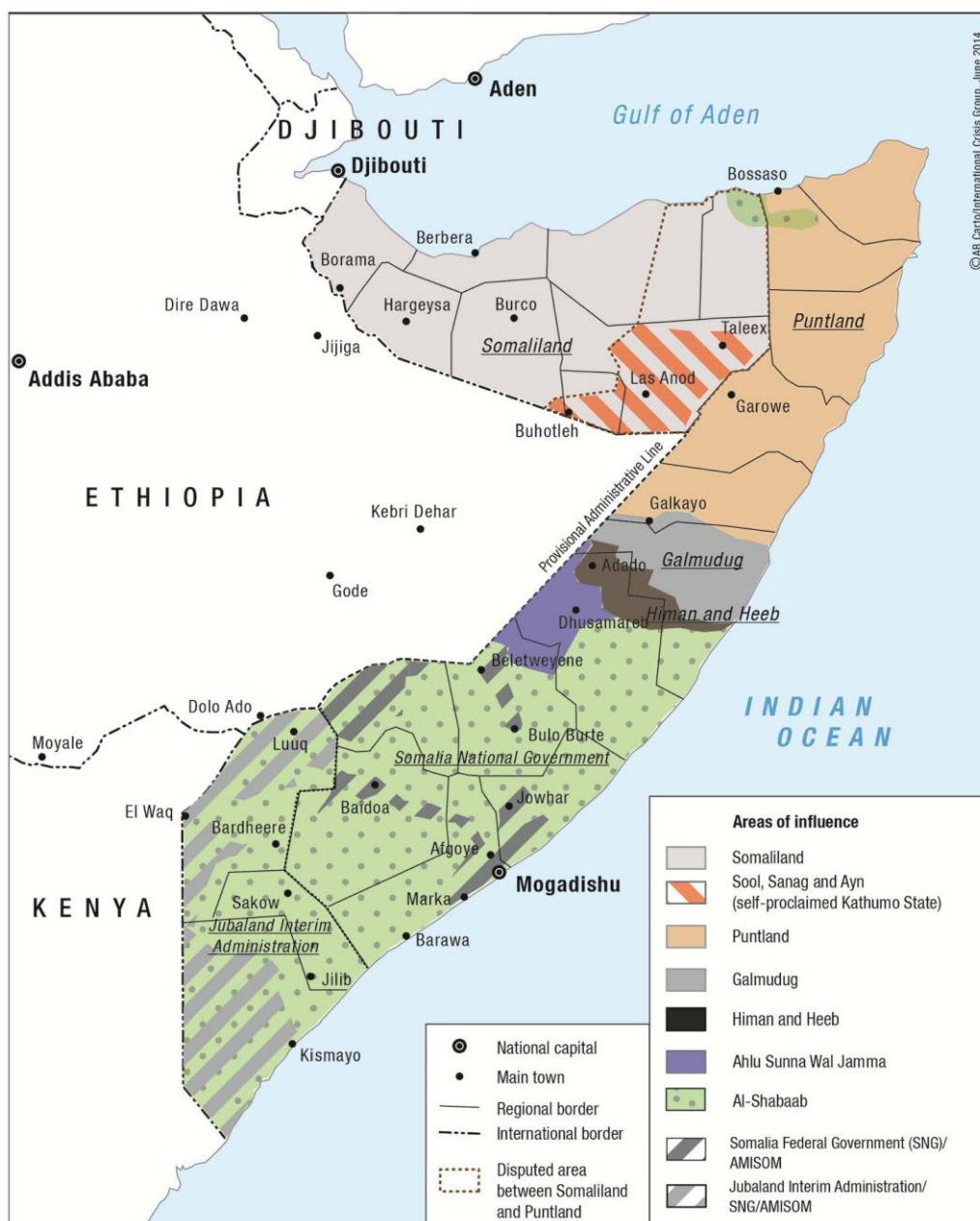
The main risks facing returnees to South-Central Somalia are outlined in the table below, with indications of possible mitigation strategies. The table is based on confidential information and on DRC internal sources.

Risk type	Specific threats / details	Possible mitigation measures
Direct attack	Returnees might be perceived by radical elements as attempting to bring foreign influence into the country. In some cases, they might be seen as spies. If they receive donor assistance, they might be seen with more suspicion.	Behave normally and avoid confrontations. If the return takes place within the framework of a humanitarian/development programme, all parties involved should adopt a low-profile communication strategy.
Indirect attack	Returnees may be indirectly exposed to terrorist attacks and to armed fighting between AMISOM/government forces and militias, as well as to large-scale security operations in their district of residence. Popular restaurants, hotels are often targeted by terrorist groups.	Avoid insecure locations and districts that are more likely to be subject to attacks, armed clashes and security operations. Carefully plan movements within and between districts. It is recommended to carry an ID document to show at checkpoints if asked.
Clan and family-related risks	Conflicts over resources can erupt between different groups, often developing along clan lines.	Avoid being involved in confrontational clan politics.
<u>Main modes of attack: VBIED, mortar attacks, hand grenades, gunfights, targeted killings.</u>		

The Figure below shows the main areas of influence in Somalia, as reported by the International Crisis Group in June 2014³. The map offers a general overview of the main

³ ICG Policy Briefing, *Somalia: Al-Shabaab: It will be a long war*. The report argues that "even as its territory is squeezed in the medium term, Al-Shabaab will continue to control both money and minds" [...], implying that "countering Al-Shabaab's deep presence in south-central Somalia requires the kind of government – financially secure, with a common vision and coercive means – that is unlikely to materialise in the near term. More military surges will do little to reduce the socio-political dysfunction

patterns of influence, showing that South-Central Somalia is still largely under AS control. Note that areas of influence change frequently over time. In particular, the extension of government- and AMISOM-controlled areas might increase as a result of new military operations that will likely be conducted in the second part of 2014; while AS or other militia groups may still be capable to infiltrate areas that are nominally under the control of pro-government forces, carrying out assassinations and terrorist attacks. It is questionable whether Somali authorities have the capacity to maintain stability and prevent human rights violations in newly-liberated areas, particularly since the ill-equipped government forces are weakened by clan rivalries and reported to commit human rights abuses on a regular basis⁴.



that has allowed Al-Shabaab to thrive; in certain areas it may even serve to deepen its hold”.

<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/b099-somalia-al-shabaab-it-will-be-a-long-war.pdf>

⁴ IRIN, *Shortages, Clan Rivalries Weaken Somalia's New Army*, 28 May 2014. Also see Amnesty International *Annual Report 2013*; Human Rights Watch (HRW) *World Report 2014*; HRW (2014), *Here rape is normal on sexual and gender-based violence in Somalia* and HRW (2014) *The courts of absolute power on fair trial's violations by Somalia's military courts*.

2.2 Means of internal travel

The main minibus stands in Mogadishu are situated along the major tarmac roads and on “ex-controls” posts (North and South) on the city outskirts. Approximate travel costs are given below (note that prices and travel time increase significantly during rainy seasons, when many roads become unpassable; while checkpoints, both legal and illegal, may also affect travel time and cost by a large extent):

- Mini-bus within Mogadishu: USD 0.25 or Somali Shillings 5,000.
- Private taxi: USD 15 for 10 kilometres.
- Short-distance moto-taxi: USD 1 to USD 5.
- Main travel routes from Mogadishu: Mogadishu to Baidoa USD 20; Mogadishu to Jowhar USD 20; Mogadishu-Beletweyne via Johwar USD 40; Mogadishu to Kisimayu via Afgoye or Baidoa USD 70 (travel time can extend to more than two days). Note that all transport is irregular; the only frequent route is from Mogadishu to Afgoye.

Air transport is available on a weekly basis from Mogadishu to: Dollow (USD 140), Kisimayu (USD 120), Baidoa and Beletweyne (via Baidoa). Air transport is also available to Puntland (Galkayo and, less frequently, Garowe) and Somaliland (Hargeisa and, less frequently, Berbera). The main airlines are: Juba airways, African Express, East African, Dallo, Sky Blue (to Kisimayu), Transom (to Baidoa and Beletweyne); they all have agencies and ticket offices scattered around Mogadishu. Aircrafts are small and safety standards are extremely low though African Express has been rated higher than East Africa and Juba by the UN, while the rest are unrated.

3. Housing and accommodation

3.1 Property restitution and/or compensation

Land tenure regimes are weak and confused throughout South-Central Somalia, particularly in rural areas. Valid land property deeds were generally issued by the Siad Barre regime that governed Somalia until 1991, prioritising members of the then dominant clans. Deeds issued at later periods (i.e., during the civil conflict) are usually contentious and of very limited validity⁵. In absence of valid property documents, the presence of witnesses that can testify land ownership is generally required to sell and purchase land.

Title deeds are more likely to be officially registered with local administrations in main urban areas (Mogadishu and Baidoa), while no registration mechanism is normally in place in rural areas. Grazing areas are generally communal and controlled by specific clans. However, droughts and scarcity of resources can trigger inter or intra-clan conflicts for access to pastures.

No fixed and predictable property restitution and/or compensation scheme is available in Somalia. In general, the following categories are more likely to gain access to their property, assets or to adequate compensation: (i) members of dominant clans and subclans; (ii) persons in possession of valid title deeds issued by the Siad Barre regime; (iii) persons in

⁵ For excellent albeit not fully updated overviews on land and property issues, see: Gregory Norton (2008). *Land, Property and Housing in Somalia*, research funded by UNHABITAT, NRC and UNHCR; and Displacement International (2008), *Housing, Land and Property Rights in South-Central Somalia*.

possessions of reliable documentation proving the purchase of land or assets; (iv) persons who can produce at least four witnesses to testify in their favour.

The Somali legal system is largely informal. Land disputes are generally referred to the customary justice system (*xeer*, administered by clan elders) and, less frequently, to sharia courts. Formal institutions play a residual role, are marred by corruption and are often under threat. Given the uncertainty of the legal framework, access to land or key assets can easily become a source of disputes and conflicts (including violent conflict). For this reason, owners tend to refrain from reclaiming their property even when they possess valid title deeds.

3.2 Housing programmes by return areas

No government-sponsored housing programme is available anywhere in Somalia. NGOs are sometimes able to provide emergency or semi-permanent shelters to persons suffering from humanitarian crises.

3.3 Opportunities of renting a house or apartment

It is normally possible to rent houses or apartments in South-Central Somalia. The market is unregulated. Contracts are generally signed by parties in urban areas, with provisions on the amount of the deposit (generally equivalent to one month's rent) and the notice period to terminate the deal. In rural areas, properties are often rented with no written contract.

3.3.1 Obstacles for certain groups

Single women and minority clans are likely to face discrimination and obstacles due to prevalent cultural norms. Landlords may be suspicious of single women and reluctant to have them as tenants. Persons belonging to weak clans in general have comparatively limited access to goods and services, and housing is no exception.

3.3.2 Relevant approximate prices

There are three main price zones in South-Central Somalia: (i) central Mogadishu; (ii) major towns and Mogadishu outskirts; (iii) rural areas.

Central Mogadishu has some of the most expensive properties in Somalia. Safer areas, particularly in the "green zone" around the airport, are more expensive than areas where security is more volatile. With the exception of the historical neighbourhood of Hamar Weyne, houses in central Mogadishu are generally large (more than three or four bedrooms, cooking area and toilets). It is common for more than one family to share one big apartment in order to save on the rent. Monthly rents may reach up to USD 150 for a large room in a central apartment.

In the outskirts of Mogadishu prices are significantly lower, the quality of the housing stock decreases and security conditions are significantly more unstable. Prices for a room range from USD 10 to USD 25 per month; apartments range from USD 80 to USD 150. The cheapest houses (around USD 10 per month) consist in corrugated iron shelters or "Somali huts" with access to shared latrines. In these areas, tenants are subject to the risk of

arbitrary evictions. In major towns of South-Central Somalia, average rents are comparable to those of Mogadishu outskirts, but they give access to slightly better-quality houses and living conditions.

In rural areas housing is cheaper and large houses may be rented at USD 150 per month. The cheapest options are corrugated iron shelters and Somali huts. Overcrowding is more limited than in urban and peri-urban areas.

3.3.3 Available subsidies

No housing subsidy is currently available in Somalia.

3.4 Other middle-term accommodation possibilities

IDPs can be offered temporary shelters in camps, in areas where NGOs have access.

3.5 Temporary shelters

Until recently, several areas of central Mogadishu used to be occupied by IDPs. Starting from in late 2012, IDPs living in occupied buildings started to be evicted and were forced to move to the city outskirts, where temporary shelter options have become available in overcrowded camps along the main road to Afgoye.

IDP areas in Mogadishu and elsewhere are generally informally managed by “gatekeepers”, who control access to IDP camps, influence the distribution of humanitarian aid, provide basic security and extort taxation from IDPs. Gatekeepers are usually local landlords, businessmen or clan leaders, often with connections to local authorities. Some gatekeepers are genuinely willing to assist IDPs, while others are purely exploitative⁶.

4. Livelihood – basic “survival”

4.1 Employment

There is scant availability of economic data in South-Central Somalia, particularly for areas outside Mogadishu. In general, there are three major livelihood zones in the region: (i) agro-pastoralist livelihood zones, where the main economic activity is semi-nomadic cattle-keeping (goats, sheep and camels) and seasonal farming; (ii) farming livelihood zones in the riverine region along the Juba and the Shabelle, traditionally occupied by Somali-Bantu engaged in small-scale and subsistence farming (note however that some Somali-Bantus were displaced by more powerful pastoralist clans after part of their livestock died in the 2011 draught, therefore part of the fertile riverine land is now controlled by former-pastoralist with limited farming skills, who regard farming as a diminishing activity); (iii) urban livelihood zones in the major centres, particularly in Mogadishu, where the economy is based on trading, construction and services.

⁶ Somalia Cash Consortium (2013). *Gatekeepers in Mogadishu*. For additional information on the structure of governance in Mogadishu and Banadir see Erik Bryld and Christine Kamau (2012), *Political Economy Analysis in Mogadishu*, research funded by DRC and UNICEF.

In South-Central Somalia, farming revolves around two rainy seasons: Gu (long rains, from April to June) and Dyer (short rains, from October to December). Seeds are normally planted at the beginning of the rainy seasons. Therefore, for returning farmers or agro-pastoralists it would be convenient to reach Somalia shortly before the rainy seasons. However, in the first half of 2014, the SNSF-AMISOM offensive in South-Central Somalia has partly disrupted the farming cycle in some areas, especially where farmers had to flee to avoid being caught in the fighting⁷. OCHA (April 2014) warned that the combination of delayed rain and conflict is posing threats to food security and basic survival in agro-pastoralist zones⁸. This may also occur in the second part of the year, in case a second offensive takes place.

Cattle-keepers can purchase goats or sheep for around USD 100; camels are sold for around USD 1,000 each. Therefore, goats and sheep are more indicated for those who need to rebuild their livelihoods from scratch, since the initial investment is lower and their reproduction rate is faster. Dinsor, Bardera and more importantly Afmadow are the main cattle markets in South-Central Somalia⁹.

Compared with the rest of Somalia, urban centres, particularly Mogadishu, offer above-average economic opportunities. Following the recent improvement in the security situation, the local economy is starting to recover. This, coupled with increasing investment, particularly from the Somali diaspora, is contributing to generate new employment. However the reconstruction process is slow and unemployment and poverty are still rampant. New jobs tend to be created in small and medium enterprises, particularly in the informal sector. The fastest-growing sectors are:

- Manufacturing: metal works, furniture making, bakeries and tailoring
- Construction: plumbing, masonry, brick making.
- Services: electronics repair, electricity installation, ICTs, money transfer services, telecommunications.
- Leisure and Hospitality: barber shops, salons, hotels and restaurants.

The following skills and positions are currently the most sought-after by the local labour market: Cooking; Carpentry; Auto repair; Tailoring; Receptionists; Masonry; Waiters; Cleaning; Mobile repair; Journalism; Auxiliary nurses; Midwives; Pharmacists; Lab technicians; IT professionals; Fishing; Beauty salons. Mogadishu has several technical and vocational training institutions that can offer curricula on these skills. However, only a fraction are able to offer good quality training¹⁰.

The best contracts are offered in the humanitarian sector (international NGOs, UN agencies) and in the largest private companies (Hormud, Dahabshil). However, access to those jobs is difficult and opportunities are limited: good academic credentials and English skills are required to join humanitarian organisations; while private companies, including the largest

⁷ See http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR_Briefing_Sheet_April_v1.pdf and <http://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-ocha-flash-update-3-humanitarian-impact-military-operation-26-march-2014> (OCHA) on the humanitarian impact of the offensive.

⁸ Somalia Humanitarian Bulletin, <http://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/humanitarian-bulletin-somalia-april-2014-issued-20-may-2014>

⁹ <http://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-livestock-price-bulletin-june-2014>.

¹⁰ Based on Danish Refugee Council and Somalia Food Security Cluster (Dec 2012). *Vocational Skills Training and Labour Market Study*.

ones, normally hire along clan and family lines, excluding job-seekers with weaker social networks.

4.1.1 Unemployment

No employment data or national statistics are available in Somalia. Anecdotal evidence suggests that, despite the partial economic recovery experienced by some areas of South-Central Somalia, unemployment and underemployment are still rife.

4.1.2 Labour market programmes

No labour market programmes are available in South-Central Somalia, save for ILO skills development programmes and livelihood activities carried out by NGOs, often in the form of short-term assistance to distressed populations (mostly through cash-for-work).

4.1.3 Labour conditions

The quality of employment is generally low, particularly in the informal sector: most jobs are occasional, low-skill and with low salaries. Working hours are determined by private arrangements between the employer and the employee.

No job market or workers' right legislation is currently enforced. An exception is represented by employees of humanitarian agencies, who are offered better conditions, often including basic medical insurance, as well as top-employees from large private companies, who are offered good salary packages and benefits.

Low-skill and casual jobs in Mogadishu are normally paid a rate starting from USD 10 per day.

4.1.4 Accessibility of short-term / occasional jobs

Casual jobs are available, particularly in the carpentry and construction sectors in Mogadishu. In central districts and markets it is usually possible to seek opportunities for casual labour (particularly in Bakhara market in Mogadishu).

In rural areas, seasonal labourers may be employed by large farms for planting and harvesting; similarly, cattle-owners may entrust the management of large herding stocks to trusted individuals, usually from their clan or family, who would receive payment in kind (goats, sheep) after one year.

4.1.5 Practical and contact information

In general family and clan networks are instrumental to find employment opportunities. Alternatively, jobs can be found through:

- Newspapers like Xoog Doon and Xoog Maal, available in main urban centres. Only medium- to high- skill jobs are normally advertised in the media.
- Somalijobs.com advertises opportunities in both the private and humanitarian sectors.
- Medium- to high- skill jobs are sometimes advertised on radio and TV stations.

- NGO consortium website (for humanitarian jobs): somalangoconsortium.org/careers.

4.2 Social security

There is no formal social security system in Somalia, but the following informal institutions/practices serve social security functions, at least in part:

- Qaaran: monthly payment from families to clan leaders, collected by the clan's council of elders. Funds are used to pay alms, Diya ("clan insurance", i.e. compensation money paid to other clans for disputes resolution) and for developmental purposes. Poor families are not expected to pay Qaaran. This system may not be fully functional in small/weak clans, where resources are mobilised only when specific needs arise.
- Zakat (religious alms, usually paid to poor relatives and poor members of one's clan once per year) and Sadaqah (voluntary alms paid out of compassion).
- Remittances from relatives who live abroad. This by far constitutes the single most important stream of foreign currency into Somalia¹¹.

4.2.1 Unemployment benefit and access to it

Not available, unless through the informal channels described above.

4.2.2 Sickness benefits and access to them

Not available, unless through the informal channels described above. Medium to high-profile formal jobs may offer medical insurance and allow provisions for sick leave.

4.2.3 Family allowances and access to them

Not available, unless through the informal channels described above.

4.2.4 Other benefits in the social welfare system

Not available, unless through the informal channels described above.

4.2.5 Special benefits for returnees

No special benefit available.

4.3 Charity organisations with a general scope

Very limited presence of significant local charities. These services are normally available through family, clan and village networks or through religious groups.

¹¹ Annual remittances to Somalia are estimated at USD 1.3 billion, exceeding the amount of aid: <http://riftvalley.net/event/remittance-transfers-somalia-keeping-lifeline-open#.U7EjovmSxqU>

4.4 Useful data to calculate the cost of living

Component	ITEM	UNIT	UNIT COST*
Seeds and farming tools	Sorghum/Maize seeds	Kg	\$2.19
	Cowpea/Sugar beans seeds	Kg	\$3.00
	Onion seeds	Gram	\$0.30
	Tomato seeds	Gram	\$0.15
	Hoe	Pc	\$7.00
	Shovel	Pc	\$8.00
	Axe	Pc	\$8.50
	Machete	Pc	\$9.00
	Plough	Pc	\$11.00
Livestock	Goat (or sheep)	Pc	\$100.00
Basic shelter items	Wooden sticks	Bunch	\$5.00
	Plastic rope	Pc	\$6.00
	Plastic sheet	Pc	\$22.00
	Bending wires	Kg	\$5.50
Household items	Blanket	Pc	\$3.50
	Sleeping mat	Pc	\$7.00
	Jerrycan	Pc	\$5.00
	Sanitary items	set	\$8.00
	Bar Soap	Pc	\$2.00
	Wash basin	Pc	\$5.00
	Cooking utensils	set	\$18.00
Food items	Rice	Kg	\$1
	Spaghetti	Kg	\$1.5
	Flour	Kg	\$0.5
	Cooking oil	litre	\$1.4
	Tomato	Kg	\$0.4
	Mango	Pc	\$0.4
	Papaya	Pc	\$0.5
	Watermelon	Pc	\$3
	Goat meat	Kg	\$7
	Camel meat	Kg	\$6.5
	Fish	Kg	\$5

* **NOTE:** prices are given in USD since most payments are made through mobile-phone transfer systems using USD accounts. The Somali Central Bank is not functional and circulation of Somali Shillings is generally limited to amounts lower than USD 5. In border towns, Ethiopian Birrs and Kenyan Shillings may be accepted. 1 USD is exchanged to approximately 20,000 Somali Shillings as of July 2014.

5. Health care

5.1 Health care system

Despite some slight sign of improvement, South-Central Somalia still has some of the worst health indicators in the region and in the world¹². The public health system, already under great stress during the Siad Barre regime, completely collapsed during the civil war. Basic health services are now provided by private clinics operating for profit. Among major medical facilities, the Egyptian and Turkish hospitals in Mogadishu are the only free of charge. Free basic healthcare is also provided by international NGOs, sometimes through the rehabilitation of local healthcare facilities, but their capacity is limited compared to the needs. Basic mobile clinics operated by NGOs strive to cater to those living in remote areas. Large-scale immunisation programmes entirely depend on donor funding. No psychological care is available in Somalia, except for limited psycho-social programmes implemented by NGOs.

5.1.1 Health care infrastructure by regions

Health care infrastructure and equipment is basic at best. There is significant regional disparity concerning access to health care: in South-Central most of the functioning facilities are located in Mogadishu and little is available in rural areas. When functioning, medical equipment is generally basic or outdated. It is not uncommon for health facilities to experience frequent electricity shortages and to have limited access to clean water.

5.1.2 Eligibility criteria and access to health care services

In general there are no eligibility criteria for access to health care services.

5.1.3 Costs of healthcare

The cost of consultations ranges between USD 10 to USD 12, laboratory checks cost USD 60 to USD 100. An unofficial payment of USD 5 to the receptionist normally allows patients to proceed to the practitioner.

5.1.4 Discrimination in health care system

Discrimination is not normally observed. The major determinant of access to healthcare is patients' capacity and willingness to pay for the service.

5.1.5 Services of non-state agents in health care

As detailed above, all healthcare providers in South-Central Somalia are non-state. Among international NGOs, MSF used to play an important role in providing basic healthcare to part of the population. Since they pulled from Somalia in 2013 for security reasons, the availability of basic healthcare has declined.

¹² WHO (2013). *Demographic, Social and Health Indicators for Countries of the Eastern Mediterranean*, http://applications.emro.who.int/dsaf/EMROPUB_2013_EN_1537.pdf?ua=1 and WHO Somalia health profile, <http://www.who.int/gho/countries/som.pdf?ua=1>. On the polio outbreak that hit Somalia in 2013, see <http://reliefweb.int/disaster/ep-2013-000064-ken>.

5.1.6 Serious diseases which cannot be effectively treated in the country

In South-Central Somalia no facility is able to effectively perform medium-complexity surgery, with the partial exception of the Turkish hospital in Mogadishu, where basic surgery should be available. Neurological, heart and renal surgery cannot be provided. No emergency or trauma care is currently functioning in South-Central Somalia. Diagnostic equipment is limited and medical personnel are generally in short-supply, underqualified and unspecialised. Persons with chronic diseases or requiring continuous medical attention cannot receive adequate treatment.

5.1.7 Supply with standard medicines

Drugs availability is mostly limited to the basics (antibiotics, malaria pills). These are imported from abroad by local businessmen and are often counterfeit or expired. Donors sometimes supply standard medicines to health facilities.

6. Access to primary education

6.1 Restrictions on access to primary education

As with the healthcare system and with any other public service in South-Central Somalia, education is provided by non-state agents, usually for profit. These include local entrepreneurs forming educational groups, NGOs and religious groups. No government guidelines are currently in place, and there is no common national examination system. Several institutions adopt the UNESCO syllabus or the Kenyan national curriculum. The quality of education is very poor, as the vast majority of teachers are not adequately qualified. Since primary education is not compulsory, only parents who can afford school fees send their children to school. Students whose family fails to pay the fee are not admitted to classes. Coupled with frequent displacements, this situation results in high drop-out rates. Since teachers are in short supply, even when physical school infrastructures are available, students frequently sit in overcrowded classrooms where no teaching takes place. The number of organisation offering free education is mainly limited to few NGOs catering to the most vulnerable, international programmes are not yet able to cope with the challenge. As a result of conflict and the poor education system, an estimate 80% of the population is illiterate (the percentage rises to 87% for women)¹³.

In general, access to education is more challenging for the following categories: (i) poor families with many children; (ii) families living in remote areas; (iii) families conducting a nomadic or semi-nomadic lifestyle; (iv) IDPs.

6.2 Costs of attending public and private schools

School fees range from USD 10 to USD 30 per child per month. In Mogadishu, the year is divided in two 5-month terms (mostly in Islamic schools) or in three 3-month terms. Limited scholarship opportunities are offered from the governments of Turkey, Saudi Arabia, gulf countries and EU countries, covering education expenses either in Somalia or abroad.

¹³ UNOCHA, Education Cluster. <http://www.unocha.org/somalia/coordination/clusters/education>.

6.3 Special requirements for children who have spent time abroad

There are no standard requirements for children coming from abroad, but schools generally administer a test to determine the class in which the new student can fit. Classes are taught in Somali and sometimes in Arabic (in Islamic schools), making it challenging for students who are not fluent in either language to follow.

7. Useful contact information

Organisation/institution	Contact person	Contact details
Banadir Hospital	Dr Iul	0615290118
Daru Shifa Hospital	Dr Mohammed Abbas	0615690481
Fiqi Hospital	Dr Osman Fiqi	0615505093
Kaamil Hospital	Dr. Omar Kamil	0616069559
Madina Hospital	Dr Mohammed Yussuf	06167002850
Rajo Hospital	Dr Yasin	0616759945
Savannah Hospital	Ahmed	0617163932

8. List of abbreviations

AMISOM	African Union Mission to Somalia
AS	Al Shabaab
DC	District Commissioner
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
HRW	Human Rights Watch
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
INGO	International Non-governmental Organisation
ILO	International Labour Organisation
MIA	Mogadishu International Airport
MSF	Médecins sans frontières (French medical NGO)
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
NSA	National Security Agency
SNG	Somali National Government
SNSF	Somali National Security Forces
UN	United Nations
UNHABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
USD	United States dollars
VBIED	Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device

Annex: Security analysis of Mogadishu districts

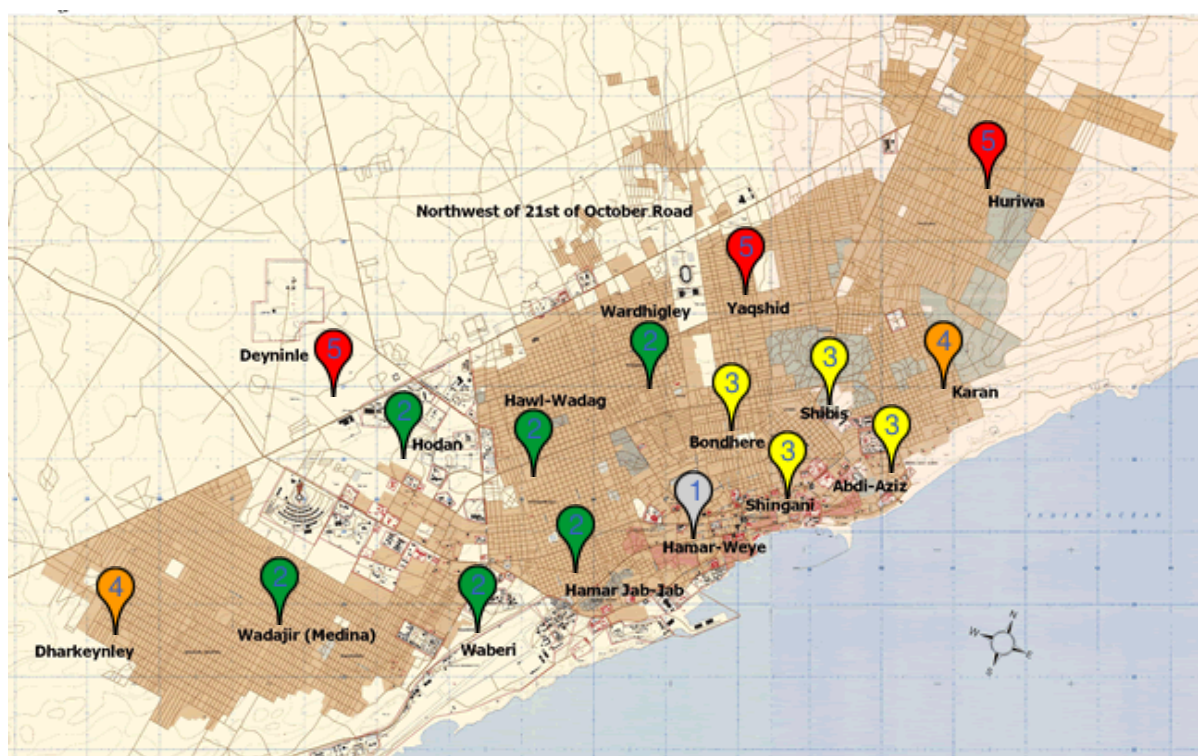
The following table is based on confidential information and on DRC internal sources.

SN	District	Main risk factors for returnees	Comparative risk index*
1	Wadajir	<u>Prevalent clans:</u> The majority clan is Abgaal, a Hawiye sub-clan, with some areas controlled by the Murosade, Hawadle and Habargidir sub-clans. <u>Risk factors:</u> For the last four years, Wadajir has been under the control of the SNG and has not been occupied by Al Shabaab (AS). Wadajir is a relatively secure district and hosts the offices of several NGOs, INGOs, UN agencies, UNSOM and AMISOM. These are occasional target of attacks.	2
2	Dharkenley	<u>Prevalent clans:</u> The Hawiye Abgaal sub-clan is the most numerous. <u>Risk factors:</u> Dharkenley is considered to be one of the more dangerous districts in Mogadishu. It is also one of the most highly populated. Although the Somali government is in control of the central area, the periphery is still under AS influence.	4
3	Waberi	<u>Prevalent clans:</u> It is estimated that the majority of inhabitants of this district are from non-Somali ethnic minorities – the Benaadiri – including Jareer, Arabs, Braves and minority of other clans. However, the Hawiye-Abgaal sub-clan dominates the higher levels of the district administration. <u>Risk factors:</u> The district houses INGOs and UN offices and the homes of several government officials, who can be target of attacks. MIA is located in the district. Crime rates are comparatively low.	2
4	Deynile	<u>Prevalent clans:</u> Majority is Murusade (sub-clan of the Hawiye). <u>Risk factors:</u> The district hosts strategic buildings (military) and runs through a former industrial zone. Deynille is one of the newest districts of Mogadishu, and have relatively poor services. The district was a former AS stronghold between 2007 to July 2011, and still attempts to influence and control the northern part. At night time, AS often launches hit-and-run attacks against the district police station and the DC office.	5
5	Hodan	<u>Prevalent clans:</u> The Habargidir sub-clan of the Hawiye is majority. Historically the Darod used to occupy most of the district before being driven out from Mogadishu In 1991. More recently, the district has witnessed a significant number of returnees, some of which managed to reclaim some of their property through the assistance of the elders. <u>Risk factors:</u> In the past four years, Hodan witnessed some of the most severe fighting between AS and AMISOM and government-affiliated forces.	2
6	H/wadaag	<u>Prevalent clans:</u> Major sub-clan is the Murosade of the Hawiye. <u>Risk factors:</u> The district hosts the city's biggest market known as Bakara Market. AS held control of the market in the past, however, they were eventually dislodged by AMISOM. Assassinations of government officials, business men are relatively frequent in this area.	2

7	H/Jajab	<u>Prevalent clans:</u> The Jareer sub-clan of the Bantu minority makes up the majority of the population, but the majority of the executive members in the district administration are Habargidir, a sub-clan of the Hawiye. <u>Risk factors:</u> The district is one of the oldest in the city. The main seaport of the country and the former Somali Police Academy are located here.	2
8	H/Weyne	<u>Prevalent clans:</u> Mostly inhabited by Banaadiri clans (Shashi, Bandhabow, Camudi, Baajuuni) or Coastal people, although the district administration is mainly made up of the Habargidir sub-clan of the Hawiye. <u>Risk factors:</u> The district is a key business centre and has never been under the control of AS. It still enjoys a relative degree of security,	1
9	Wardhigley	<u>Prevalent clans:</u> The major clan is the Habargidir sub-clan of Hawiye. <u>Risk factors:</u> Security is relatively good, although the area continues to be a target for AS attacks primarily because the Presidential Palace (Villa Somalia), the parliament buildings and the Mogadishu Stadium are located here.	2
10	Bondhere	<u>Prevalent clans:</u> This is one of the oldest districts in Mogadishu, and it is mainly inhabited by the minority groups: Arabs, Shareer, Reer and Xamar. However, as in most other districts, the Hawiye clan, through the Abgaal sub-clan, occupy the higher administrative positions. <u>Risk factors:</u> There is extremely small presence of aid agencies working in the district. The security situation of the district is not stable and crimes against innocent civilians are frequent.	3
11	Shangani	<u>Prevalent clans:</u> It is dominated by the Arabs, a marked difference from other districts where the Hawiye tend to dominate the leadership posts even when they are the minority. <u>Risk factors:</u> The district has been under the control of the SNG for the last four years and AS never occupied it. In its heyday, it was a popular tourist destination and home for a number of diplomatic missions and expatriates, due to its coastal location along Lido Beach. It is also one of the more secure districts, with some limited NGO presence.	3
12	Shibis	<u>Prevalent clans:</u> The majority of the population are Arabs, and unlike in other districts, the administration is made up of both Arabs and Hawiye-Abgaal, although there is still a feeling of marginalization by the more powerful Hawiye. <u>Risk factors:</u> Once an AS stronghold (2009-2011), the district is now relatively secure.	3
13	Abdul Aziz	<u>Prevalent clans:</u> The district, also known as Abdi Aziz, is mainly occupied by the Hawiye-Abgaal sub-clan, who also control the district administration. <u>Risk factors:</u> The district is home to several government buildings, which are target of AS and militias.	3
14	Karan	<u>Prevalent clans:</u> the majority of the districts is Abgal, subclan of Hawiye and minority is Costal people. <u>Risk factors:</u> Karan is the largest district in Mogadishu and reported to have the largest number of returnees as well.	4

		Although some parts of the district have come under the control of the SNG since August 2011, AS still carry out attempts to maintain a sphere of influence. There are clan tensions in a struggle for control of the district, and clan militias are therefore an additional source of insecurity. Consequently, civilian presence in the streets is more subdued due to uncertainty about the security situation.	
15	Yaqshid	<u>Prevalent clans</u> : The district is controlled by the Hawiye-Abgaal sub-clan and they hold almost all of the administrative positions. <u>Risk factors</u> : Since the removal of AS, stability has somewhat improved. However, several incidents that appear to be linked to terrorism continue to occur in the northern part of the district. Yaqshid is one of the districts where AS attempts to show their influence.	5
16	Heliwa	<u>Prevalent clans</u> : The main clan occupying the Heliwa District is the Habargidir sub-clan of Hawiye, followed by the Abgaal. <u>Risk factors</u> : Heliwa remained an AS stronghold until March 2012. The district also experienced some of the heaviest fighting between 2007 and 2012. Heliwa acts link connecting central Somalia to Lower Shabelle, and therefore experienced significant IDP movement.	5

** from 1 (comparatively less risky) to 5 (comparatively more risky). This index is purely indicative. Areas scoring 1 or 2 must not be considered safe and free from conflict. The security situation is fluid and the index ranking may be subject to frequent changes.*



Districts of Mogadishu with comparative risk index