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**FINAL REPORT TO
CONDUCT
CONFLICT PROTECTION
SENSITIVE ANALYSIS IN SOMALIA**

**SUBMITTED TO
NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL (NRC)
AND THE UN REFUGEE AGENCY (UNHCR)**

SUBMITTED BY



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AS	Al- Shabab
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
RDI	Roots Development Initiative
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
PSMN	Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
NDP	National Development Plan
NTP	National Transformation Plan
FHH	Female-Headed Household
KII	Key Informant Interview
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia.
GIS	Geographic Information System
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OPD	Organization of Persons with Disabilities
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IDSF	Internal Displacement Solutions Fund
NCRI	National Commission for Refugees and IDPs
SNA	Somali National Army Federal Member States
FMS	Federal Member States
MOHADM	Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management
SODMA	Somali Disaster Management Agency
DSS	Department of Social Services
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
GPS	Global Positioning System
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HLP	Housing, Land, and Property
SEA/SH	Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Sexual Harassment.
GCRI	Galmudug Commission for Refugees and IDPs
MoIFAR	Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation
MoIFAD	Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs, and Democratization of Puntland

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Somalia remains affected by a protracted and complex humanitarian crisis driven by the combined effects of armed conflict, political fragility, climate-related shocks, and chronic displacement. In 2025, nearly half of the population required humanitarian assistance, while more than 3.4 million people remained internally displaced. Displacement is increasingly protracted and urbanized, and protection risks are severe, persistent, and unevenly distributed, particularly in densely populated urban and peri-urban settlements.

This Protection and Conflict Sensitivity Analysis examines protection risks, barriers to access to rights and services, and conflict dynamics in Banadir Region (Daynile, Kaxda, Garasbaley), Bari Region (Qardho), and Galgaduud (Dhusamareb). These areas represent critical displacement and protection hotspots, characterised by high concentrations of internally displaced persons (IDPs), tenure insecurity, weak access to essential services, and exposure to violence. Commissioned by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and implemented by Roots Development Initiative (RDI), the assessment applies a mixed-methods approach, combining household surveys (n=391), Key Informant Interviews, Focus Group Discussions, and a desk review. The analysis is anchored in UNHCR's¹ protection-centred, rights-based approach and informed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC²) Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs.

Key Findings

Protracted displacement and barriers to durable solutions

The assessment confirms entrenched displacement, with over 90 per cent of respondents identifying as IDPs and nearly half displaced for more than three years. Structural barriers including low educational attainment, limited livelihood opportunities, lack of civil documentation, and insecure tenure significantly undermine self-reliance and restrict progress towards durable solutions. Forced evictions and unresolved Housing, Land and Property (HLP) issues, particularly acute in Banadir and Qardho, continue to drive repeated displacement and impede safety, stability, and sustainable recovery.

Severe and intersecting protection risks

Protection risks are widespread and mutually reinforcing. Households reported high exposure to violence, extortion, theft, and other rights violations. Gender-Based Violence (GBV), child labour, child marriage, and recruitment risks affect all assessed locations, with particularly high levels of violence and reported violations in Dhusamareb. Women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, female-headed households, and minority groups face heightened and intersecting vulnerabilities linked to discrimination, restricted mobility, stigma, and limited access to effective referral and response mechanisms.

Limited access to protection and essential services

Access to essential services, including health care, education, WASH, legal assistance, GBV response, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) remains critically constrained. Utilisation of specialised protection services is consistently low despite high needs, reflecting insecurity, distance, cost, stigma,

¹ The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is a United Nations agency mandated to aid and protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people, and to assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.

² IASC can refer to several organizations, most prominently the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the UN's top body for coordinating global humanitarian aid, uniting UN & non-UN partners to set policy & respond to crises.

and limited awareness of available services. In the absence of accessible and trusted formal systems, affected communities rely heavily on informal coping strategies and traditional leadership structures, highlighting significant gaps in protection systems, accountability, and local service delivery.

Conflict dynamics and protection outcomes

Conflict and insecurity continue to shape displacement patterns, humanitarian access, and protection outcomes. In Banadir, complex urban insecurity, criminality, and politically driven evictions exacerbate risks for displaced populations. In Qardho, security operations, competition over resources, and armed group dynamics contribute to displacement and protection concerns. In Dhusamareb, recurrent inter-clan violence and militia activity drive displacement and expose civilians to acute harm. These dynamics restrict humanitarian space and risk reinforcing exclusion and inequality if not addressed through conflict-sensitive and inclusive programming.

Conclusions and Strategic Implications

Protection needs across the assessed locations are severe, protracted, and closely linked to conflict dynamics, governance gaps, and structural exclusion. Addressing these challenges requires a protection-centred response that prioritises the safety, dignity, and rights of displaced and conflict-affected populations, while advancing pathways towards durable solutions in line with UNHCR and inter-agency frameworks.

The assessment underscores the need to:

- Strengthen age, gender and diversity-responsive protection systems, including GBV, child protection, and MHPSS services.
- Address HLP risks and forced evictions as core protection and solutions challenges.
- Improve equitable access to essential and specialised services, including through area-based and outreach approaches.
- Reinforce community-based protection mechanisms, accountability, and meaningful participation; and
- Invest in integrated, area-based solutions approaches that support safety, access to rights, and self-reliance in alignment with national and inter-agency durable solutions strategies.

The findings provide a robust evidence base to inform UNHCR, government counterparts, and humanitarian and development actors in strengthening protection outcomes, mitigating harm, and advancing durable solutions for internally displaced and conflict-affected populations in Somalia.

I. INTRODUCTION

I.1 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Somalia continues to grapple with a protracted humanitarian crisis driven by persistent conflict, political fragility, economic shocks, and recurrent climate extremes. In 2024, an estimated 6.9 million people required humanitarian assistance, only a marginal reduction from 8.3 million in 2023, and 3.4 to 3.8 million people were internally displaced nationwide. The estimated 3.4 million internally displaced persons are included within the broader figure of approximately 6–7 million people in humanitarian need nationwide.

Conflict remained the leading cause of new displacement, with over 550,000 new internal displacements recorded in 2024, more than half attributed to violence and insecurity. Within this national landscape, Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley), Bari (Qardho) and Galgaduud (Dhusamareb) emerge as critical displacement and protection hotspots, where conflict dynamics, rapid urbanization, and climate stress intersect to generate acute humanitarian needs and overstretched basic services.

Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) home to Mogadishu, hosts the largest concentration of IDPs in Somalia. As of early 2024, OCHA estimated that approximately 1.25 million displaced people were residing in just two districts: Kahda (594,600 IDPs) and Daynile (653,000 IDPs), highlighting the scale and density of urban displacement. Forced evictions remain a defining protection risk: between January and April 2025, over 45,000 IDPs³ were forcibly evicted nationwide, 56% from Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) alone. By August 2025, cumulative evictions reached nearly 142,000 individuals, with 81% occurring in Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley). Chronic insecurity, settlement congestion, weak tenure rights, and repeated evictions compound risks of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), child protection violations, exploitation, and loss of livelihoods, further entrenching vulnerability.

In Bari (Qardho), particularly in Qardho, displacement is shaped by a convergence of conflict, climate shocks, and economic pressures. A CCCM site verification exercise conducted in April 2024 identified 116,740 IDPs across 22 sites in Bari (Qardho), confirming it as one of the largest displacement hubs in Puntland. In Qardho alone, CCCM partners verified 12 active IDP sites hosting 19,784 IDPs in Qardho during the assessment. However, land tenure insecurity remains widespread, increasing the risk of eviction and limiting investment in durable housing, infrastructure, and service delivery⁴.

In Galmudug an estimated 395,000 IDPs remain displaced, many as a result of drought, conflict, and recurrent inter-clan violence. While Dhusamareb hosts 95 IDP sites, accommodating approximately 33,916 households and 164,248 individuals⁵. However, in 2024 alone, intercommunal clashes displaced nearly 150,000 people, with displacement patterns often cyclical and closely linked to conflict dynamics

³ UNHCR Somalia - Operational Update April 2025.

⁴ Based on data from the [CCCM Cluster Somalia](#) and [ReliefWeb](#), the figure of 12 verified IDP sites in Qardho, Somalia, consistently represented a localized assessment, though the specific population numbers changed over time. For example, December 2024 data confirmed 12 sites with 3,946 households (19,784 individuals), while earlier 2022/2023 reports cited 12 sites with varying numbers, such as 21,170 individuals (May 2023) or 19,782 individuals (March 2022).

⁵ [Qardho IDP Site Verification - December 24.pdf](#) and [Bossaso IDP Household Registration- Dec25](#)

and environmental stress. Both Bari (Qardho) and Galgaduud (Dhusamareb) (Dhusamareb) experience recurrent flooding and drought, which damages shelters, disrupts services and markets, and triggers further displacement movements.

Access to essential services, including healthcare, WASH and education, GBV and child protection, and mental health/psychosocial support (MHPSS), is severely limited across the three regions. Nationally, fewer than one-third of the population has reliable access to health services, with displaced communities facing the most severe barriers. A joint NRC–UNHCR protection and conflict sensitivity assessment reported that in Dhusamareb fewer than 30% of displaced households consistently access health services. In contrast, GBV and MHPSS services remain severely under-resourced, with service utilization rates below 10% in the assessed districts. Protection monitoring systems recorded more than 10,000 GBV incidents between January 2023 and December 2025, predominantly rape and intimate partner violence. Yet, specialized response and justice pathways remain limited, particularly for women, adolescent girls, persons with disabilities, and minority clans.

The broader political and security environment, characterized by federal–member state tensions, Al-Shabaab operations, and intermittent inter-clan conflict, continues to hinder humanitarian access and coordination, particularly in frontline, peri-urban, and high-density displacement areas of Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) , Bari (Qardho) and Galgaduud (Dhusamareb).

Against this backdrop, addressing the gaps in protection and service delivery in these regions requires coordinated, equitable, and conflict-sensitive programs. This report offers a detailed analysis of protection risks, service access barriers, and conflict dynamics across Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) , Bari (Qardho) and Galgaduud (Dhusamareb), using a mixed-methods approach that includes quantitative surveys, qualitative Key Informant Interviews (KIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and a desk review. The goal is to produce practical, evidence-based recommendations that enhance safety, dignity, and resilience for displaced and crisis-affected populations across the three regions.

1.2 Assessment Objectives

This Conflict and Protection Sensitivity Assessment was conducted to identify and analyze protection risks, vulnerabilities, and threats impacting various population groups, including women, men, boys, girls, older adults, and persons with disabilities, in the targeted districts. The assessment aimed to:

- a) Determine protection needs among displaced populations and communities at heightened risk, with emphasis on the forms of protection threats, rights violations, and safety concerns experienced by civilians.
- b) Identify existing coping mechanisms, strategies, and resources used to recognize, mitigate, and respond to protection risks affecting vulnerable individuals and households.
- c) Assess the availability, quality, and accessibility of essential services and protection mechanisms, including barriers that prevent high-risk groups from accessing timely support.
- d) Inform more inclusive and responsive service delivery models by applying vulnerability and risk criteria to ensure targeted, need-based interventions for the most at-risk groups.

- e) Analyze prevailing conflict dynamics and their influence on population movement, access to humanitarian services, and emerging risks for affected communities.
- f) Examine the conflict sensitivity of current and planned interventions, identifying risks of inadvertently escalating tensions and opportunities to strengthen conflict-sensitive programming.
- g) Generate actionable recommendations for integrating protection and conflict sensitivity principles to promote a “do no harm” approach, enhance accountability, and contribute to peacebuilding and social cohesion.
- h) Understand the root causes, drivers, actors, and dynamics of conflict within the targeted areas, and assess how these factors shape community vulnerabilities, protection risks, and access to assistance.
 - i. Examine how different protection and solutions approaches either mitigate or exacerbate conflict, especially in fragile settings.

These objectives underpin the data collection and analysis processes, ensuring the findings are relevant, actionable, and aligned with UNHCR’s and NRC’s overarching goals of improving protection outcomes and fostering stability in conflict-affected areas.

2. METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

This section outlines the Methodological Approach⁶ used for the Conflict and Protection Sensitivity Analysis conducted in the Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) Galgaduud (Dhusamareb) and Bari (Qardho) regions. The methodology was designed to comprehensively address the study’s objectives by adopting a mixed-methods approach that integrated quantitative surveys, qualitative data collection, and a desk review of secondary data sources. This triangulated approach captured diverse perspectives, enabling a holistic understanding of protection risks, service accessibility, and conflict dynamics.

2.1 Study Design

The study used a participatory, inclusive research design that combined qualitative and quantitative methods. The quantitative component involved structured household surveys to generate measurable data on key indicators of displacement, protection risks, and access to services. The qualitative component, which included Key Informant Interviews (KIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), provided in-depth insights into the lived experiences of affected populations and key stakeholders. A desk review was also conducted to contextualize findings and align the analysis with existing literature, national policies, and regional frameworks on conflict sensitivity and protection.

2.2 Sampling Strategy

To ensure statistically reliable data, the Cochran Sample Size Calculation was applied at a 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error, yielding a minimum sample size of 391 households across the three districts.

⁶ Unless otherwise stated, percentages are calculated based on the number of respondents who answered each question. Some questions allowed multiple responses; therefore, totals may exceed 100%. District-level percentages refer to respondents within that district.

Sample distribution by district will be determined using probability proportional to size, guided by the 2014 UNFPA population estimates.

Table 1: Household Interview Sample Size

Region/District	Estimated Population	PPS (%)	Sample Size
Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley)	187,246	52%	201
Bari (Qardho)	108,161	30%	118
Galgaduud (Dhusamareb)	68,099	18%	72
Total Population	363,506	100%	391

This sample ensured adequate representation of key demographic groups, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities, and vulnerable populations such as women, children, and persons with disabilities.

2.3 DATA COLLECTION METHODS

2.3.1 Quantitative Data Collection

Quantitative data were collected through a structured household questionnaire to capture critical information on protection risks, access to essential services, and local conflict dynamics. The questionnaire covered various indicators, including the prevalence of protection risks and violations, availability and utilization of basic services such as healthcare, education, water, and sanitation, and the impact of conflict on humanitarian service delivery. Trained enumerators conducted face-to-face interviews with selected households, ensuring that the data collected was consistent, accurate, and reflective of the diverse experiences of the respondents across Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) Galgaduud (Dhusamareb), and Bari (Qardho).

2.3.2 Qualitative Data Collection

The study covered Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley), Bari (Qardho) and Galgaduud (Dhusamareb) Regions, each with different population sizes and sample allocations. Sampling was proportional to each region's population. Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) had the largest estimated population (187,246), representing 52% of the total, and was allocated the most significant household sample (201 households). Bari (Qardho) (Qardho, Puntland), with an estimated population of 108,161 (30%), received 114 households. Galgaduud (Dhusamareb), with the smallest population estimate of 68,099 (18%), was assigned a sample of 72 households. Because Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) makes up more than half of the total population, it received the largest sample size, while Dhusamareb, with the smallest population, received the smallest sample

Stakeholder engagement and data collection took place across Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb), using a mix of Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) to ensure inclusive representation. In Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) 16 engagements (11 KIIs and 5 FGDs) were conducted, including FGDs with persons with disabilities and host community members, as well as three dedicated sessions with internally displaced people (IDPs). KIIs collected input

from district authorities, development agencies, state actors, religious leaders, and private sector representatives. In Bari (Qardho), 12 engagements (9 KIs and 3 FGDs) were completed through FGDs with persons with disabilities, host communities, and IDPs, supported by KIs with government officials, development agencies, religious leaders, state actors, and private sector stakeholders. Dhusamareb recorded 14 engagements (11 KIs and 3 FGDs), with FGDs following the same inclusive approach used in other regions, and KIs involving district authorities, development partners, religious leaders, state actors, and private-sector representatives. Overall, the assessment engaged a broad spectrum of stakeholders across all three regions. Notably, Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) had the highest number of IDPs and the most FGDs conducted, reflecting the area's significant displacement. Meanwhile, Bari (Qardho) and Dhusamareb showed more balanced engagement among community groups, ensuring diverse and representative insights for evidence-based analysis.

The qualitative data collection process included Key Informant Interviews (KIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) to gather detailed perspectives on community experiences, service accessibility, and protection mechanisms. A total of 31 KIs were conducted with key stakeholders, including local leaders, government officials, humanitarian actors, and service providers. These interviews aimed to understand protection challenges, the dynamics of regional conflicts, existing response mechanisms, and the effectiveness of service delivery in the targeted districts.

11 FGDs were conducted with various community groups, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities, and Persons with Disabilities. Each FGD involved 8 to 12 participants and focused on themes including perceptions of safety, barriers to accessing essential services, and community coping strategies. These FGDs provided valuable qualitative insights that complemented the quantitative data, offering a deeper understanding of the socio-political and economic contexts in which protection and conflict issues arise.

Table 2: Stakeholders and Sample Sizes

Region & State	Districts	Proposed Stakeholders	Method	Sample Size
Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley), Bari (Qardho) and Galgaduud (Dhusamareb)	Kaxda, Garasbaley, Daynile, Qardho, Dhusamareb	Persons with disabilities	FGD	3
		Host Community	FGDs	3
		IDPs	FGDs	5
		District Authorities & Officials.	KIs	4
		Traditional & Religious Leaders	KIs	9
		Security Actors, i.e., Police & Darwish	KIs	6
		Development agencies, including UNHCR, NRC, IOM & Save the Children.	KIs	8

		State Gov't Actors, i.e., GCRI, MoIFAR, MOHADM, SODMA, MoPIED (DSS), National Centre for Rural Development and Durable Solutions (NCRDS) under the Federal Ministry of Interior, as well as the Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) Regional Administration, and MoPIED in Galmudug, and MoIFAD in Puntland, are key Government actors on durable solutions.	Kills	6
		Private Sector Actors or Service Providers, i.e., Health care providers	Kills	9

Overall, the assessment surveyed 391 households, providing a solid quantitative basis for analysis. The quantitative data was complemented by 11 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) held with key community groups to gather insights into community perspectives and experiences, and 31 Key Informant Interviews (KIs) with officials, service providers, and other stakeholders to develop a thorough understanding of local dynamics and protection issues.

2.3.3 Desk Review

A comprehensive desk review for conflict sensitivity analysis in humanitarian protection assistance was conducted to provide contextual background for the study, specifically focusing on the three study districts. The review synthesized secondary data from various sources, including reports from humanitarian organizations, government policy documents, and peer-reviewed academic literature. This review also served as a cross-reference and validation for fieldwork findings to ensure a robust analysis of protection risks, access to services, and conflict-sensitive programming.

Socio-economic and political context

The study focused on Kaxda, Garasbaley, and Daynile districts in the Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) region; Qardho in Bari (Qardho); and Dhusamareb in Galgaduud (Dhusamareb). These represent differing socio-economic, governance, and protection dynamics across these regions and Somalia as a whole.

Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley)

Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) has a dense urban economy where commercial vibrancy coexists with inequality. The region has the highest number of internally displaced people in Somalia, estimated to have approximately 1.06 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) as of late 2025. The

region has one of the largest urban IDP populations in Somalia, hosting roughly 30% of the country's total displaced population⁷. Economic activity is diverse, with both informal and formal commerce supporting livelihoods, but high population density and poverty result in uneven access to services. Governance is centralized but contested and influenced by national politics. The clan composition is diverse, comprising primarily Hawiye subclans, with minority groups also present. Ongoing insecurity drives displacement, settlement congestion, and protection risks, including GBV and forced evictions.

Bari (Qardho)

Bari (Qardho) is a trade and livestock-based economy with relatively stable services compared to Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley). Governance structures in Puntland are considered functional and legitimate, with dominant Darood/Majeerteen clan influence.⁸ Security is generally calm, though localized land and resource tensions occur.⁹ Land governance gaps contribute to disputes and affect access for minorities and new arrivals.¹⁰ Displacement is primarily drought-driven, and protection risks relate to exclusion from access to services.¹¹

Galgaduud (Dhusamareb)

Dhusamareb has a pastoral economy with limited diversification.¹² Governance remains in a state of consolidation, with evolving state capacity and political arrangements. Dominant clans include the Hawiye/Habar Gidir, with varying levels of power across districts.¹³ Security improvements are evident in Dhusamareb town, whereas rural areas face insurgency and interclan conflict. Climate shocks drive rural–urban migration, straining limited services and deepening inequality in access to assistance.¹⁴

Clan-based Social Networks and Coping Strategies

Somalia's socio-political fabric is fundamentally shaped by clan identity, with major lineages such as Darod, Hawiye, Dir, and Rahanweyn branching into complex sub-clan structures that influence access to power, resources, and protection¹⁵. These clan networks function as the primary units of social organization, offering mechanisms for solidarity, resource sharing, informal justice, and conflict mediation, and in the absence of strong formal governance, lineage structures, particularly diya, pay groups operate as systems of collective responsibility, overseeing compensation, reconciliation processes, and community-level governance¹⁶. While this embedded support network enhances resilience, especially in contexts of protracted conflict and recurrent climatic shocks, it can also deepen exclusion when minority clans are marginalized from decision-making, resource distribution, and other key processes¹⁷.

⁷ Somalia - Increased displacements, funding shortfalls (IOM, OCHA) (ECHO Daily Flash of 23 October 2025)

⁸ European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) (2023). Country Guidance: Somalia.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Kosi et al. (2023). Land Governance & Development in Qardho.

¹¹ [Somali Health and Demographic Survey - Dhusamareeb Report](#) (PDF). *Somalia National Bureau of Statistics*. 2021. Retrieved 12 November 2025.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), The role of Clans in Somalia, <https://euaa.europa.eu/cgs-tcds/role-clans-somalia>, 2022.

¹⁶ Dr Andre Le Sage

¹⁷ Daadir Faarax and Karin Michotte, Placing Social Cohesion at the Centre of Reconstruction Strategies in Fragile States, April 2019.

Coping strategies within Somali communities have evolved in response to persistent insecurity, drought, displacement, and economic strain. Households rely heavily on clan solidarity, diaspora remittances, informal savings groups, and community-based safety nets. Women, despite limited roles in formal clan power structures, play a significant role in sustaining households through trade, informal business, and resource mobilization, thereby reinforcing social resilience even when state systems are weak. However, these coping mechanisms are increasingly stretched by the scale of need, population movements, and limited livelihood opportunities, particularly among displaced communities.¹⁸

Clan dynamics remain highly influential across Somalia including districts of Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley in Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) region, Qardho in Bari (Qardho) region and Dhusamareb in Galgaduud (Dhusamareb) (Dhusamareb) shaping governance performance, stability, and the implementation of humanitarian and development interventions in the assessed locations. Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) 's dense urban setting amplifies political contestation and minority marginalization, while Dhusamareb heterogeneous clan composition contributes to recurrent feuds and shifting alliances. Bari (Qardho), under Puntland's Majerteen, leads structures and exhibits comparatively organized clan arrangements, though power competition persists beneath formal authority. Elders and influential power brokers continue to negotiate access, legitimacy, and acceptance of the project, making clan engagement a critical factor in programme design and risk management.

At the national level, the 4.5 power-sharing model formalizes clan representation and reinforces identity-based politics, prompting debate on the transition toward more inclusive civic frameworks.¹⁹

Overall, clan systems serve as both a stabilizing foundation and a driver of fragility; they ensure social protection, conflict resolution, and economic continuity, yet simultaneously reinforce inequalities and contribute to conflict dynamics. Understanding these networks²⁰ It is therefore essential for effective governance, conflict-sensitive programming, and equitable service delivery across Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb.

Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley)

As the administrative centre of the Federal Government of Somalia, Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) holds the significant political and economic influence. District administrations in Kaxda, Garasbaley, and Daynile operate under formal municipal structures but remain heavily influenced by clan-based authority, with district commissioners and local security actors often aligned with dominant clan interests. This contributes to uneven representation in decision-making and resource allocation, particularly affecting IDPs, minority clans, women, and youth, who frequently struggle to access land tenure, humanitarian services, and justice mechanisms²¹.

Clan competition over taxation, checkpoints, and settlement expansion often leads to localized tensions, especially in peri-urban areas. Protection risks include forced evictions, GBV, extortion, movement restrictions, and exclusion from aid targeting. The coexistence of federal forces, district security units,

¹⁸ Dr Andre Le Sage, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Stateless Justice in Somalia: Formal and Informal Rule of Law Initiatives, 2022.

¹⁹ Rift Valley Institute, The Role of 4.5 in democratization and governance in Somalia, Horn of Africa, Somali Dialogue Platform 2023.

²⁰ Mohamed Salah Ahmed, Can Somalia get beyond clan and identity politics? October 2020. Also found here: <https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/op-ed/can-somalia-get-beyond-clan-and-identity-politics/amp>.

²¹ Somalia Dialogue Platform, Policy Brief, SDP.06, December 2023.

clan militias, and private security also creates a fragmented protection environment, thereby heightening risks to civilians during security operations or electoral mobilization cycles.²²

Bari (Qardho)

Located in Puntland, this region also relies heavily on clan leaders to maintain stability and resolve local disputes, especially in the absence of a robust state presence across all areas. The local government works with elders to conduct training and raise awareness to reduce conflicts.

In Qardho, district administration operates within the Puntland governance system, with relatively stable institutional structures compared with those in central Somalia. However, traditional authority remains central to conflict resolution, taxation agreements, and community protection. Elders play a pivotal role in regulating social order and acting as intermediaries between the population and authorities. Collaboration among district authorities, police, and traditional leaders is common, including in peacebuilding awareness campaigns and resource sharing.²³

While conflict levels are comparatively moderate, competition over water points, pasture routes, and political influence occasionally triggers inter-clan frictions, particularly during periods of drought or electoral transitions. Protection concerns centre around child recruitment risks, GBV, inequitable access to services for pastoralist and minority groups, and vulnerability of IDPs and returnees who often lack documentation or clan protection²⁴.

Galgaduud (Dhusamareb)

This region is characterized by significant political fragility and recurrent, intense inter-clan violence, often fuelled by disputes over land/pasture ownership, access to water, and political manipulation by elites. Clan militias are significant political actors here, and the interplay between clan loyalty and the state-building process is particularly contested.

Dhusamareb, as the administrative capital of Dhusamareb, is undergoing an evolving state-building process marked by competing centres of authority among federal-aligned administrative structures, clan leaders, and armed militias. While district leadership operates under a formal system, clan allegiance frequently influences appointments, security command structures, and resource negotiation. This makes governance fragile and highly sensitive to shifts in interclan power balances.²⁵

The region faces recurrent, at times intense, conflict, driven by land and grazing disputes, political contestation, and competition among clans and aligned militias. Armed actors retain strong social legitimacy, control mobility routes, and influence community protection outcomes. Key civilian risks include armed clashes near settlements, displacement during militia fighting, revenge killings, property

²² ACAPS Thematic Report: Somalia - Impact of clan conflicts, 19 March 2025.

²³ Land and Conflict in Qardho District: Study of the Root Causes and Solutions, East African Journal of Arts and Social Sciences (1): May 2024

²⁴ Preparation of gender-sensitive and climate-resilient city wash master plans, management modalities, and technical feasibility studies for Qardho and South Galkayo, Somalia, contract no. 43428762 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the construction of emergency 40 latrines and soak pits (lined holding tanks) in high-density or flood-prone zones – Qardho, PUNTLAND, Somalia, September 2025.

²⁵ Dhusamareeb: governance, state formation, conflict dynamics, and reconciliation [en/so], 31 March 2024.

destruction, GBV, and restricted humanitarian access. Elite-led political manipulation of clan grievances further deepens divisions and poses long-term risks to stabilization efforts.²⁶

2.4 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Across all regions, the balance between state authority and clan power remains a key governance challenge, with tensions most visible in Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) and Dhusamareb. Meanwhile, Qardho shows a more organized coexistence between administrative institutions and traditional leaders. Conflict intensity varies across areas: moderate in Qardho, highly localized and politically charged in Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) and marked by recurrent, often violent confrontations in Dhusamareb. IDPs and minority clans are the most vulnerable groups everywhere, facing significant barriers to justice, land, and service, especially in Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) and Dhusamareb. Protection risks differ by area, with Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) facing forced evictions, aid exclusion, GBV, and extortion; Qardho dealing with dangers of child recruitment, GBV, and limited services for pastoralists and IDPs; and Dhusamareb confronting increased threats from armed clashes, displacement, revenge attacks, and property loss.

Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) (Kaxda, Garasbaley, Daynile) has the most complex political environment because it is the seat of the Federal Government. Even in contexts with functioning municipal administrations, district-level decision-making is heavily influenced by dominant clan interests and competition over land, taxation, and settlements. The presence of multiple armed and security actors creates a fragmented protection landscape. As a result, IDPs, minority groups, women, and youth face serious vulnerabilities, especially forced evictions, exclusion from aid, GBV, extortion, and insecurity during political mobilization.

In **Bari (Qardho)** governance is comparatively stable within Puntland structures, characterized by collaborative relationships among district authorities, the police, and traditional elders. Clan dynamics remain influential, particularly in conflict resolution, tax agreements, and community protection. While conflict levels are moderate, periodic tensions arise over access to water, pastoral routes, and electoral processes. Protection concerns are less severe than Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) or Dhusamareb but remain notable for pastoralist minorities, IDPs, and returnees, particularly related to documentation barriers, child recruitment risks, and GBV.

In Galgaduud (Dhusamareb), displays high political fragility. Distrust among the formal administration, clan leaders, and armed militias creates a competitive, shifting power balance. Clan militias hold strong legitimacy, shaping security decisions and access to mobility routes. Recurring violent clashes over land, pasture, and political influence drive displacement and periodically constrain humanitarian access. Civilians face elevated risks, armed confrontations near settlements, revenge killings, property destruction, GBV, and disruption of livelihoods.

In all three target areas, governance systems formally operate within state structures, but clan power remains a key determinant of authority, resource control, and access to services. Differences appear in

²⁶ Somalia dialogue platform, understanding political settlement dynamics in Dhusamareeb state Horn of Africa, 2023.

the strength of administrative institutions, the level of conflict, and the scale of protection risks faced by marginalized groups.

2.5 HUMANITARIAN PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

The reviews also determined that the humanitarian situation in Somalia is dire, with nearly 7 million people requiring assistance due to conflict, drought, and other shocks.

Somalia remains in a severe, protracted humanitarian crisis in 2025, with the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) estimating that around 5.98–6 million people – nearly half the population – require humanitarian and protection assistance due to the combined effects of conflict, climatic shocks (droughts, floods), disease outbreaks, and protracted displacement.²⁷

Against this backdrop, NRC and other protection actors continue to play a central role in delivering assistance and protection to populations most at risk, including displaced communities and marginalized groups, with UNHCR's Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network (PSMN) – implemented in partnership with NRC – providing real, time data on protection incidents, movement patterns, and access to services across Somalia.²⁸

The 2025 HNRP was launched with total requirements of about US\$1.4 billion to assist 4.6 million people. Still, a rapidly worsening global funding crisis has forced OCHA and the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) to adopt a reprioritized plan that now focuses on the 32 most severe districts and targets only about 1.3 million people with a prioritized envelope of US\$367 million.²⁹

As of late 2025, the HNRP remains critically underfunded, with coverage of approximately 20–25 percent, resulting in significant cuts to food assistance and other vital programs. WFP also announced that emergency food aid would be reduced for approximately 750,000 people.

In this context, protection risks remain severe and, in some areas, are worsening. Violence against civilians, forced recruitment, targeted attacks by non-state armed groups, and inter-communal conflict continue to intersect with exploitation, abuse, and severe deprivation in displacement sites and hard to reach rural areas. Recent protection assessments estimate that millions are exposed to grave protection risks, with 2.7 million women and girls at risk of Gender-Based Violence and ongoing child protection issues, including child marriage and family separation.

UNHCR's 2025 protection reporting and feedback mechanisms, including the Q3 2025 Feedback and Response Mechanism, highlight recurring themes of insecurity, lack of documentation, denial of access to services, and intra-camp power imbalances, with women, children, persons with disabilities, and minority clans consistently ranking among the most at-risk groups.

The importance of protection in the 2025 response is further underscored by the Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) crisis, which remains a key structural driver of protection violations. Yearly data from the HLP Area of Responsibility (AoR) shows a consistent pattern of mass forced evictions and tenure insecurity in urban and peri-urban IDP settlements, with cumulative eviction numbers now reaching

²⁷ Somalia: [Global Humanitarian Overview 2025 | Humanitarian Action](#) 2025.

²⁸ Somalia Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network: [Dataviz](#).

²⁹ <https://www.unocha.org/somalia>.

hundreds of thousands of households and millions of people estimated to need HLP-related protection help.

These dynamics are closely linked to land speculation, weak or contested urban governance, and the influence of gatekeepers and private landowners, which, in turn, create incentives for aid diversion and rent-seeking. Humanitarian actors, including UNHCR, UNICEF and cluster partners, are increasingly emphasizing post-distribution monitoring (PDM), complaint and feedback mechanisms, and anti-diversion safeguards as vital components of the protection response, particularly in cash- and voucher-based programs.

Access to protection services and life-saving assistance has become more limited in 2025. The Somalia Access Working Group's severity analyses and the Q3 2025 Humanitarian Access Snapshot document a rising number of access incidents, including bureaucratic obstacles, interference in program design, movement restrictions, and direct violence against humanitarian staff and assets. Fifty incidents were reported in Q3 alone, up from 45 in the previous quarter. At the same time, macro-level funding cuts and sanctions, along with related compliance pressures, have forced agencies to prioritize certain areas and reduce their presence, especially in insecure regions such as parts of Mudug and other frontline zones.

This has direct implications for protection outcomes: communities in high-risk districts often report less access to specialized protection services such as legal aid, case management for GBV and child protection, and HLP counseling. They also tend to rely more heavily on informal, clan-based, or gatekeeper-mediated mechanisms, which may reinforce exclusion and impunity.

At the strategic level, the 2025 analysis and recommendations are anchored in and extend beyond existing policy frameworks. The National Durable Solutions Strategy (NDSS) 2020–2024 continues to provide the core national vision for addressing displacement, while recent reporting indicates that its monitoring and evaluation framework is being carried forward into a National Solutions Pathways Action Plan that aims to guide durable solutions programming up to 2029.³⁰

The IASC Framework complements these national efforts on durable solutions for internally displaced persons and related indicator libraries, which now support multi-agency analyses of durable solutions and area-based programs in several Somali locations.

Together, they reinforce the need for evidence-driven, conflict-sensitive, and protection-sensitive programming that explicitly tracks progress (or regression) towards safety, security, access to services, and self-reliance for displacement-affected populations.

The interagency coordination architecture, particularly the ICCG, state-level ICCGs, and the Joint Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (JMCNA) and other joint assessments, remains the backbone of strategic prioritization in 2025. These mechanisms have been central to the mid-year reprioritization of the HNRP, the narrowing of the geographic caseload to the most severely affected districts, and the decision to

³⁰ Somalia: Somalia's [National Durable Solutions Strategy \(NDSS\) 2020-2024](#) is a government plan to tackle displacement causes (conflict, disasters) for IDPs, refugees, and returnees, aiming for self-reliance through better governance, economy, and services, paving the way for longer-term solutions. While the original plan covered 2020-2024, related efforts now extend through 2029, with new plans such as the National Solutions Pathways Action Plan 2024-2029, which focus on integrated solutions and national ownership.

focus remaining resources on life-saving clusters: food security, nutrition, WASH, health, and protection.³¹

Taken together, the 2025 evidence base – from global protection analyses to UNHCR’s protection monitoring, HLP eviction tracking, access severity mapping, and inter, cluster assessments – reaffirms the imperative to use robust data and conflict, sensitive analysis to shape humanitarian protection and assistance, tackle the structural drivers of displacement, and strengthen pathways to durable solutions for Somalia’s displacement, affected communities.

These assessments guide strategic planning and response efforts. The study's findings and recommendations are based on the IASC framework for IDP situation management and guidance on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, which outlines pathways to durable solutions with a focus on long-term safety, security, and access to essential services for displaced populations.

2.6 DATA ANALYSIS

The data analysis process followed a structured, multi-step approach designed to ensure accuracy, reliability, and robustness of findings:

2.6.1 Quantitative Analysis

The quantitative data analysis involved a systematic process to ensure accuracy and reliability. Data collected from household surveys was cleaned and validated to eliminate errors and inconsistencies. The cleaned dataset was then analyzed using statistical software to generate key insights. Descriptive analysis was conducted to create statistical summaries of demographic characteristics, protection risks, and access to essential services across districts. A comparative study was conducted to identify differences in protection needs and service availability across Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb. Additionally, trend analysis was used to examine patterns in displacement and protection risks over time, providing insights into temporal changes affecting vulnerable populations.

2.6.2 Qualitative Analysis

Qualitative data from Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were carefully analyzed. The data was transcribed, coded, and examined thematically to identify common themes related to protection risks, conflict dynamics, and barriers to accessing services. Thematic coding allowed categorization of responses, highlighting key issues faced by different groups, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities, and persons with disabilities. This analysis provided detailed contextual insights that enriched the quantitative findings, offering a more nuanced understanding of the protection and conflict landscape in the study areas.

2.6.3 Triangulation

Triangulation was used to ensure a thorough and balanced analysis by cross-checking data from quantitative surveys, qualitative interviews, and the desk review. This method enhanced the study's validity by corroborating findings across multiple sources, minimizing bias, and yielding robust results.

³¹ A round-up of activities of the UN system in Somalia in April 2025: [A round-up of activities of the UN system in Somalia in April 2025 | United Nations in Somalia](#)

Triangulation also enabled a comprehensive interpretation of the key issues, ensuring that statistical trends and personal experiences were accurately captured and incorporated into the final analysis.

2.7 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Given the sensitive nature of the information collected, strict ethical protocols were adhered to throughout the study. These included:

- **Informed Consent** - All participants were told about the purpose of the study, and verbal consent was obtained before data collection.
- **Confidentiality** - Personal information was anonymized and stored securely to safeguard participants' identities.
- **Cultural Sensitivity** - Data collection tools and processes were created to be culturally appropriate, respecting local norms and values.
- **Do No Harm Principle** - Enumerators and facilitators were trained to conduct interviews in a way that minimizes potential distress to participants.

2.8 CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED DURING DATA COLLECTION

Several challenges arose during data collection in Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb, affecting both the depth and the representativeness of protection assessments. Respondents often favoured tangible assistance over assessments, and repeated data collection by multiple actors has led to survey fatigue, which decreased engagement, especially when there was no visible follow-up or improvement after previous surveys.

Across all three areas, the following constraints affected data collection:

- **Low willingness to participate** - Many respondents, particularly in IDP and host communities, were hesitant to engage in interviews, often preferring tangible assistance over answering survey questions.
- **Assessment fatigue and frustration** - Communities expressed dissatisfaction with repeated surveys that do not translate into visible improvements, resulting in disengagement.
- **Low literacy and limited technical understanding** - Restricted education levels hindered respondents' ability to provide detailed input on complex themes, affecting the accuracy of information collected.
- **Limited access to government officials** - High workloads and competing priorities among officials led to delays in securing appointments and slowed down the assessment process.
- **Cultural sensitivities** - Topics such as Gender-Based Violence (GBV) were difficult to discuss openly due to cultural norms, creating hesitancy to share sensitive details.
- **Mistrust toward humanitarian actors** - Some respondents questioned the purpose of the assessment and were reluctant to participate without clear benefits.
- **Expectation of direct support**: Some individuals declined to provide information unless immediate assistance was offered, impacting participation rates.
- **Poor infrastructure and logistics constraints** - Inaccessible roads and unreliable transport made it difficult for assessment teams to reach remote areas.
- **Political and security instability** - Periodic clan conflict and political tensions created unsafe working conditions, limiting access to specific communities and causing interruptions in fieldwork.

These challenges may result in underreporting of sensitive protection risks, particularly GBV, child protection concerns, and threats affecting men and boys. Perceptions captured through qualitative data should therefore be interpreted as indicative of trends rather than exhaustive accounts of prevalence or severity.

To mitigate these challenges, the assessment relied on experienced local facilitators, extended community engagement, and simplified data collection tools adapted to local language and literacy levels. Triangulation across household surveys, KIIs, FGDs, and secondary data was used to validate findings and reduce bias linked to partial disclosure or non-response.

To address these challenges, local facilitators and extended engagement time proved essential for building trust and reducing response bias. Simplifying data collection tools and adapting questionnaires to local language and literacy levels were also crucial strategies for improving data quality and fostering cooperation among both communities and government officials.

2.9 LIMITATIONS

The findings of this assessment should be interpreted in light of several limitations. First, the sample is predominantly composed of internally displaced persons (IDPs), reflecting their high concentration in the assessed districts and access constraints affecting host community participation. As a result, the analysis more strongly reflects displacement-related vulnerabilities and may underrepresent host community perspectives.

Second, several indicators particularly length of displacement, protection incidents, and service access are based on self-reported data at the time of assessment. These responses may be influenced by recall bias, social desirability bias, or expectations of assistance and should therefore be interpreted as indicative rather than causal or predictive.

Third, security and access constraints limited coverage in some high-risk or remote areas, potentially excluding populations experiencing the most acute protection threats. This may result in conservative estimates of risk severity, particularly in relation to conflict-related violence and eviction dynamics.

These limitations mean that findings should be understood as capturing patterns, risks, and relative differences across locations, rather than precise prevalence rates. Quantitative figures are best interpreted alongside qualitative insights and secondary data.

To address these limitations, the assessment applied probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling, complemented quantitative results with qualitative narratives, and cross-validated findings through desk review and protection monitoring data. This mixed-methods approach strengthens confidence in the overall trends and conclusions despite contextual constraints.

3.0 ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Findings indicate that protection risks are not only humanitarian outcomes but also active drivers of conflict, particularly through forced evictions, unequal access to services, and exclusion from governance and aid systems.

The findings of this report offer a detailed analysis of protection risks, access to vital services, and conflict dynamics in Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb. Based on quantitative data, insights from KIs and FGDs, and a thorough desk review, the report highlights the key challenges facing vulnerable populations. The evidence provided creates a solid basis for targeted, evidence-based recommendations to enhance service delivery, improve protection outcomes, and guide future humanitarian and development efforts.

3.1 Demographics Characteristics and Displacement Patterns

The analysis ensured both scale and depth, capturing local realities at the household level while anchoring findings within the broader institutional framework. The result is a dataset that provides evidence for discussions of protection, service access, and resilience in the Somali context, particularly in high-density displacement-affected areas such as Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) .

Data was collected across three key regions of Somalia: Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) , Bari (Qardho) and Galgaduud (Dhusamareb) using a mixed-methods approach that combined household surveys, Key Informant Interviews (KIs), and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). The methodology was designed to ensure breadth of representation while capturing depth of lived experiences within both community and institutional structures.

A total of 391 household interviews were conducted in Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) (201), Bari (Qardho) (118) and Galgaduud (Dhusamareb) (Dhusamareb) (72) using PPS sampling, which ensures proportional representation to population density and humanitarian caseloads providing a strong

foundation for comparative analysis. The qualitative component engaged a broad spectrum of actors, enabling a multidimensional understanding of needs, protection risks, and service delivery dynamics.

Across the three regions, respondents included internally displaced persons (IDPs), host community members, persons with disabilities, traditional leaders, clans, and religious leadership, district and state government authorities, Private sector and service providers including health actors, humanitarian and development agencies e.g., UNHCR, NRC, IOM, and Security actors such as police and Darwish forces.

Regionally, Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) registered the highest qualitative engagement with 16 FGD/KII respondent sets, followed by Dhusamareb with 14 and Bari (Qardho) with 12. The spread reflects both population patterns and operational access, while ensuring representation from groups with distinct vulnerabilities and influence over protection environments.

The demographic characteristics nuance protection risks, coping mechanisms, and governance dynamics and ensures strong representation of IDPs and host communities allows for comparative analysis of displacement, related vulnerabilities, intentional targeting of persons with disabilities reflects a protection, sensitive approach to inclusion, bringing forward voices often underrepresented in research and engagement with authorities, humanitarian agencies, private sector, and community leadership provides visibility into the interconnected layers of service provision, community governance, and accountability.

The table below presents an overview of respondents' demographic characteristics by district and gender, based on a 100% response rate. The sample size for each district was determined using probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling, ensuring that the number of respondents in each district reflects its relative population size.

This proportional representation ensured that the data captured a balanced perspective from each district relative to its population.

The Focus Group Discussions involved diverse community groups across three districts and collected insights from Persons with Disabilities, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities. In Kaxda, the FGD with the Persons with Disabilities had five participants, with gender representation implied but not consistently documented. Discussions were mostly male-led, illustrating how households affected by disability are often male-headed but remain among the most vulnerable. The FGDs were

In Garasbaley, the community FGD included six female participants, forming a mixed, gender group with both men and women actively involved. Multiple FGDs were also held with internally displaced people. In Daynile, more than five participants, including men and women from vulnerable displaced households, attended the session. Garasbaley also conducted an additional discussion with a diverse group of male and female participants from internally displaced people

A notable gender pattern emerged in Kaxda, where the IDP FGD involved five women, all recent arrivals, highlighting a high number of female-headed households in displacement areas. Across all districts, women, Persons with Disabilities, older adults, and families with children were consistently identified as highly vulnerable groups.

Participation across the FGDs showed a broad demographic spectrum, but women clearly dominated in IDP settings, while men led discussions within the persons with disabilities. This makeup underscores the distinct experiences of vulnerability, access to services, and protection needs across population groups.

The Focus Group Discussions included a variety of community members from Dhusamareb, ensuring representation of different disability statuses, displacement backgrounds, and host community perspectives. Although gender was not explicitly documented in the tools, participant responses and interaction styles indicate mixed gender participation across all groups.

The FGD with persons with disabilities, conducted in Hilaac Camp, involved five participants with various physical and mental disabilities. Participants included both men and women, demonstrating inclusivity within this vulnerable group. A second discussion with the host community included six residents from the general population of Dhusamareb. Dialogue patterns and gender-sensitive insights indicated participation by both genders. Similarly, the session with IDPs and vulnerable groups included six participants, mainly from displaced households, representing women, families, and those in household caregiving roles.

Across the three FGDs, vulnerable subgroups such as women, children, female-headed households, elderly individuals, and persons with disabilities were prominent. This variety provided a broad view of community needs and protection issues, enhancing qualitative data with lived experiences from diverse social groups.

Three Focus Group Discussions took place in the Qardho district of Bari (Qardho), involving internally displaced persons (IDPs), host community members, and Persons with Disabilities. The groups included a diverse demographic mix, with men and women from various livelihoods and vulnerability backgrounds. A total of three community groups participated in the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). The IDP group consisted of nine participants, four men and five women, who took part in five separate FGD sessions with internally displaced persons. Similarly, five FGDs were held with host community members, with a total of nine participants, primarily women (seven women and two men).

Six Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were held with Persons with Disabilities, involving six participants whose gender was not fully documented, but who represented individuals with physical impairments. This demographic diversity provides a balanced perspective from both the displaced and the host communities. It helps ensure that the voices of disability groups are heard, as they often face heightened barriers to protection and access.

Table 3: Demographic characteristics

		Count	Percent
Region & District	Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) (Kaxda, Daynile, and Garasbaley)	201	51.4%

Gender of Respondent	Bari (Qardho)		118	30.2%
	Galgaduud (Dhusamareb)		72	18.4%
	Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley).	Female	311	79.5%
	Bari (Qardho)	Male	80	20.5%
Household Head	Galgaduud (Dhusamareb)			
	Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley)	Yes	281	71.9%
		No	110	28.1%
	Bari (Qardho)			
	Galgaduud (Dhusamareb)			

Age of the Respondents

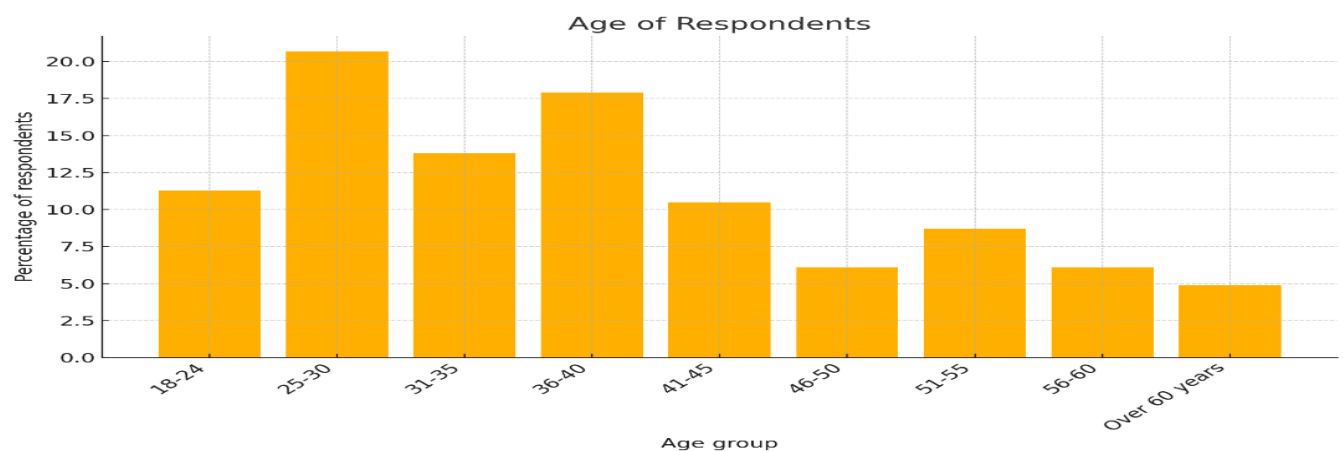
The chart below provides an age distribution analysis of respondents across the districts of Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb were segmented into five age groups: 18–24, 25–30, 31–35, 36–40, and 40+. The percentages below refer to the proportion of respondents within each district, not the overall sample.

The age distribution of respondents is broad, with a notable skew toward younger adults. Individuals aged 18–24 account for 11.3%, while the largest group is 25–30 at 20.7%. Those aged 31–35 and 36–40 account for 13.8% and 17.9% respectively, bringing the proportion of respondents under 40 to nearly two-thirds of the sample. Older age groups are also represented: 41–45 years (10.5%), 46–50 years (6.1%), 51–55 years (8.7%), 56–60 years (6.1%), and 60 years and older (4.9%). This distribution highlights a predominantly young population, while still reflecting the presence of older individuals whose needs, particularly with respect to health, chronic vulnerability, and caregiving, remain essential considerations.

Age patterns vary across the three districts surveyed, with each showing distinct demographic characteristics. Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) reflects the youngest population profile, with the largest share of respondents aged 18–24 (28 individuals, 63.6%) and 25–30 (51 individuals, 63%). Mid, age groups remain present, including those 31–35 (14 individuals, 25.9%) and 36–40 (34 individuals, 48.6%), while older age categories reduce gradually with 46–50 at eight respondents (33.3%), 51–55 at 16 respondents (47.1%), and 56–60 at 12 respondents (50%). A significant 18 respondents are over 60, indicating a visible elderly presence that may require targeted social and health support. The younger age profile in Banadir likely reflects urban pull factors, including perceived livelihood opportunities, access to education, and relative security compared to rural areas.

In Bari (Qardho) the distribution is more balanced between younger and middle-aged adults. Respondents aged 18–24 constitute 13 (29.5%), while those aged 25–30 constitute 17 (21%). Notably, the 31–35 age group is the largest, comprising 28 individuals (51.9%), followed by the 36–40 age group, with 22 (31.4%). Older groups are present in lower but steady proportions 46–50 at 10 (41.7%), 51–55 at 10 (29.4%), and 56–60 at 4 (16.7%), with only one respondent over 60, suggesting fewer elderly residents than in Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) .

Galgaduud (Dhusamareb) shows comparatively smaller numbers across age brackets but follows a similar youth-leaning trend. Respondents aged 18–24 account for three (6.8%), whereas those aged 25–30 are higher at 13 (16%). Respondents aged 31–35 and 36–40 accounted for 12 (22.2%) and 14 (20%), respectively, indicating a youthful adult majority. Older segments decrease progressively: 46–50 reported by 6 (25%), 51–55 by 8 (23.5%), and 56–60 by 8 (33.3%), with no respondents aged over 60, highlighting potential demographic differences in ageing profiles across regions.



3.2 FINDINGS

In sections including Reasons for Displacement, Protection Risks, Coping Strategies, and Groups Most at Risk GBV risks, service barriers, etc., respondents were allowed to select multiple responses. As a result, percentages represent the proportion of respondents who reported each issue, not mutually exclusive categories, and therefore do not sum to 100%³². Some district-level percentages in this report may appear inconsistent because different denominators are used depending on the indicator and level of analysis. This distinction though not always made explicit in the narrative is clarified below.

Within-district percentages are calculated using only respondents from the specific district as the denominator. These figures reflect the proportion of respondents *within that district* reporting a given issue, experience, or characteristic and are intended to support comparisons within districts. Across-

³² Unless otherwise stated, percentages are calculated based on the number of respondents who answered each question. Some questions allowed multiple responses; therefore, totals may exceed 100%. District-level percentages refer to respondents within that district.

sample percentages are calculated using the total number of respondents across all districts as the denominator. These figures indicate the relative contribution of a district to an overall finding and are used to illustrate distribution patterns across the full sample, rather than prevalence within a specific district.

Because these approaches serve different analytical purposes, percentages should not be directly compared unless they share the same denominator. Where relevant, the report now clarifies whether figures represent within-district prevalence or district-level contributions to overall findings.

Governance, Power and Conflict Dynamics

Conflict dynamics in the assessed regions are closely linked to governance arrangements, land administration systems, and the interaction between formal authorities and clan power structures. Decisions related to land allocation, security operations, and urban expansion directly shape displacement patterns and protection risks³³.

Land Administration and Ownership³⁴: Weak land governance systems, a lack of a unified land registration system, and the prevalence of private land ownership often lead to disputes over land rights. Formal state law often intersects, and sometimes conflicts, with traditional clan agreements and Islamic law regarding land matters. The competition for control over land is a major driver of conflict, especially as urban areas expand, and land values increase.

Clan Power Structures³⁵: Clan dynamics resemble ethnic divisions and are the major underlying barrier to social cohesion. Clan elders are often the most trusted authorities in addressing land disputes, but traditional structures can disadvantage vulnerable groups, such as minorities and women. Conflicts often escalate when different clans or factions leverage control over land to secure political power and economic resources.

Interaction between Systems³⁶: The state formation process involves ongoing negotiations and contestation between regional political leaders, the federal government, and various clan powerholders, which can escalate into violence. The instrumentalization of clan loyalty can affect access to aid and services, leading to unequal distribution and the exclusion of marginalized groups.

Impact on Displacement and Protection Risks³⁷

³³ https://stabilityfund.so/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Land-Conflict_DIGITAL-SPREADS.pdf.

³⁴ Mohamud Isse Yusuf and 3 Others, East Africa University, *East African Journal of Arts and Social Sciences* 7(1):2024, Land and Conflict in Qardho District: Study of the Root Causes and Solutions, May 2024.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ ACAPS, ACAPS Thematic Report: Somalia - Impact of clan conflicts, 19 March 2025.

The humanitarian impact of clan conflicts is severe, leading to large-scale displacement, food insecurity, and limited access to essential services. Many IDPs lack adequate shelter, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities³⁸. The instrumentalisation of humanitarian aid is a persistent challenge, with some individuals leveraging clan loyalty to determine access to aid, services, and employment opportunities.

While humanitarian organisations operate under principles of neutrality, gatekeepers and community affiliations can sometimes affect distribution, leading to unequal access and the exclusion of marginalised groups³⁹. Clan conflicts remained persistent in 2025, driven by unresolved land disputes, political rivalries, and climate-induced resource scarcity. Rising tensions ahead of the 2026 elections, increased militarization, and worsening humanitarian conditions will likely escalate violence, displacement, and access challenges for affected communities⁴⁰.

Clan clashes have also affected access to essential services, disrupting healthcare, education, and WASH services. Thousands are without medical care as a result of attacks on health facilities, while school closures and teacher displacement have deprived children of education. At the same time, WASH infrastructure damage has heightened the risk of waterborne diseases, including cholera, worsening the humanitarian crisis.

Additionally, decisions related to land allocation, security operations, and urban expansion directly shape displacement patterns⁴¹. For example, Urban Expansion and Forced Evictions; Rapid urban development, often for residential or commercial purposes, has led to significant pressure on land. This frequently results in forced evictions, particularly in high-risk locations like Daynile and Kaxda in the Banadir region. The majority of evictions are carried out by private landlords for owner-driven development, contributing to further displacement, often of people who had already been displaced once before.

Resource Competition involving scarcity of natural resources, often exacerbated by climate shocks like drought, intensifies competition over land and water, pushing pastoralist communities into conflict or into urban shantytowns.

Protection Risks for Vulnerable Groups especially where displaced populations face heightened protection risks, including gender-based violence (GBV), forced evictions, and child exploitation. Minority groups and women often face systemic barriers to securing land tenure security documents due to legal discrimination and bureaucratic obstacles.

Considering specific regional dynamics such as in Qardho district faces significant land conflicts primarily driven by private land ownership, lack of a registration system, and weak institutional capacity. Unplanned settlements on flood plains and pasturelands have increased competition and hindered planned urban growth.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

Clan-based conflicts in Dhusamareb (Galgaduud (Dhusamareb) (Dhusamareb) region) and other central regions are major drivers of displacement, leading to loss of life, property destruction, and disruption of livelihoods and community support systems.

In essence, the absence of an effective, unified land governance system that balances formal and informal structures allows for ongoing contestation, which is then amplified by urban expansion and security dynamics, creating a cycle of conflict and displacement.

Gender Dynamics

Across Daynile, Kaxda, Garasbaley (Banadir), Qardho (Bari), and Dhusamareb (Galmudug), gender dynamics play a decisive role in shaping protection risks, access to justice, and conflict sensitivity outcomes⁴². Protracted displacement, insecure land tenure, weak rule of law, and entrenched clan-based power structures interact with gender norms to produce differentiated vulnerabilities for women, men, girls, and boys. Conflict-sensitive programming therefore requires gender-responsive and context-specific approaches that address these intersecting risks while avoiding the reinforcement of existing inequalities.

GBV remains one of the most severe and persistent protection risks across all assessed locations. Sexual violence, intimate partner violence (IPV), and child marriage are consistently reported in IDP settlements, particularly in Daynile and Kaxda. According to protection monitoring and GBV sub-cluster data compiled by UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council, women and girls account for the majority of reported GBV incidents in Banadir, often exceeding two-thirds of cases. Key risk factors include overcrowding, lack of lighting, shared or non-lockable latrines, long distances to water points, and insecure shelter structures conditions repeatedly documented in Somalia GBV assessments and protection monitoring exercises⁴³.

While women and girls face disproportionate exposure to GBV, men and boys experience distinct protection threats linked to the conflict environment. In Qardho and Dhusamareb in particular, men report fear of revenge killings, arbitrary detention, forced recruitment by armed actors, and violence linked to clan disputes⁴⁴. Adolescent boys are especially vulnerable during livestock grazing, migration for work, or informal security activities. These risks are frequently underreported due to stigma, fear of retaliation, and limited availability of confidential protection services for males, a gap highlighted in multi-agency protection analyses by the Protection Cluster Somalia⁴⁵.

Access to justice for GBV survivors remains severely constrained. The customary justice system (Xeer), while central to dispute resolution, often prioritizes clan compensation and social harmony over individual rights. Survivors, particularly women and girls may be pressured into forced marriage with perpetrators or discouraged from pursuing formal legal remedies. Formal justice institutions and survivor services (clinical management of rape, psychosocial support, legal aid) are limited in availability,

⁴² UNWomen, gender, climate and conflict analysis in Somalia and assessment of opportunities for climate agriculture and livelihood opportunities for crisis-affected and at-risk women in Somalia, 2022.

⁴³ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the proposed Beco hybrid power plant, Dayniile, Somalia, January 2025.

⁴⁴ Protection Cluster Somalia, *Somalia Protection Analysis Updates and Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2024–2025*

⁴⁵ Ibid.

geographically inaccessible, or financially prohibitive, especially outside Mogadishu. These challenges are consistently documented in assessments by UNICEF and the GBV Area of Responsibility⁴⁶.

Women and girls across all sites report insufficient access to safe, dignified, and gender-sensitive WASH facilities. The absence of lockable latrines, segregated bathing areas, and menstrual hygiene materials heightens exposure to harassment and assault and undermines dignity. These deficits are particularly acute in informal IDP sites in Banadir and secondary displacement areas in Galmudug, reinforcing the well-established link between service gaps and protection risks⁴⁷.

Despite systemic exclusion from formal decision-making, women play critical roles in informal peacebuilding and conflict mitigation. In Dhusamareb, women's networks actively mediate inter-clan tensions, support early warning, and advocate for protection of civilians⁴⁸. However, their contributions are often unpaid, unrecognized, and unsupported, limiting sustainability and impact. Global and Somalia-specific evidence demonstrates that peace processes are more durable when women's participation is meaningful rather than symbolic⁴⁹.

Humanitarian and peacebuilding interventions in these locations must be ****conflict-sensitive, gender-responsive, and protection-centered**** to avoid exacerbating tensions or reinforcing harmful norms. Programmes should be grounded in robust gender and protection analyses that capture intersecting vulnerabilities related to displacement status, clan affiliation, disability, age, and minority identity.

Meaningful inclusion of women in camp governance, community committees, and peacebuilding structures is essential. Engagement strategies should involve women, men, youth, and clan elders to build legitimacy and mitigate backlash, particularly in conservative or highly clan-segmented contexts⁵⁰. Protection outcomes cannot be achieved in isolation. GBV prevention and response must be integrated with shelter, WASH, livelihoods, and land-related interventions to address root causes of vulnerability such as poverty, insecurity, and tenure instability, an approach consistently recommended by the Global Protection Cluster⁵¹.

Engagement with local authorities and security actors where feasible should include training on gender, protection of civilians, and survivor-centered approaches, alongside clear accountability mechanisms. Strengthening trust between communities and duty bearers is critical in settings where fear, impunity, and historical grievances undermine protection⁵².

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- ⁴⁶ GBV Rapid Assessment Report for Daynile and Kaxda (September 2025): The Women Resilience Initiative (WRI) conducted a rapid assessment in Daynile and Kaxda districts of the Banadir region, focusing on IDP concentrations. Key findings included high risks of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and child/early marriage.

⁴⁷ Somalia GBV AoR Strategy (June 2024 - December 2025): The GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) published a strategy that outlines the plan for addressing GBV across Somalia during this period, prioritizing specific districts within the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP).

⁴⁸ <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/Somalia-womens-leadership-in-peace-processes-evidenced-growing>.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2025-05/undp-somalia-inclusive_peace-a_case_study_of_somali_women_peacebuilder_feb_9.pdf.

⁵¹ Ibid.

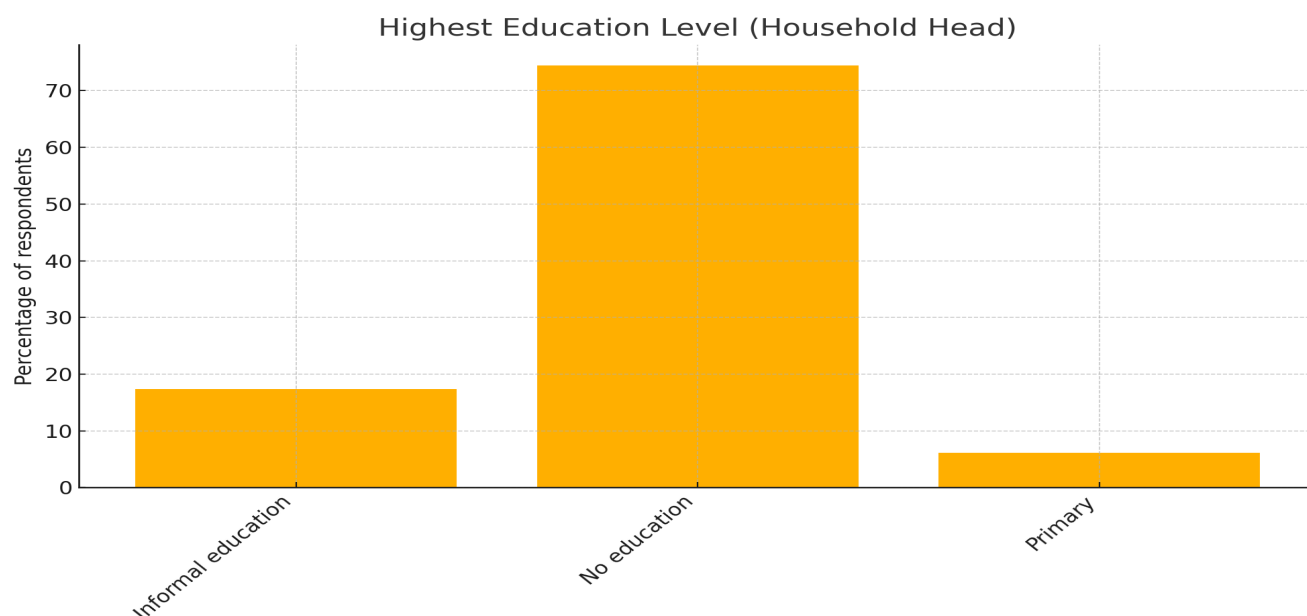
⁵² <https://igad.int/statement-of-the-igad-executive-secretary-h-e-drworkneh-at-the-ministerial-meeting-of-the-troop-contributing-countries-tccs-to-the-african-union-support-and-stabilization-mission-in-somalia-aus/#:~:text=The%20recommendations%20also%20emphasize%20the%20importance%20of,addressing%20operational%20shortfalls%20through%20sustainable%20funding%20mechanisms>.

Education Level of Respondents

Education among household heads is very low, with clear implications for livelihoods, protection awareness, and the ability to navigate institutions. 74.4% reported no formal schooling, 17.4% informal, 6.1% primary, and 2.0% secondary. Only 8.1% of households have heads with any formal primary or secondary schooling.

Education levels among respondents are extremely low across all study locations, with a clear concentration of households headed by individuals without formal schooling. In Kaxda, the overwhelming majority (91.2%) of respondents reported having no formal education, 8.8% reported informal schooling, and none reported having completed primary or secondary education. A similar pattern is observed in Garasbaley: 71.2% of respondents reported no education, 21.2% had informal education, and only a small proportion reached primary (6.1%) or secondary (1.5%) levels. Daynile shows slightly better outcomes but remains heavily skewed toward low educational attainment: 76.1% have no education, 11.9% have informal schooling, 6% have primary education, and 6% have secondary education. In Qardho, although educational attainment remains low, the proportion of the population with schooling is relatively higher than in the Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) districts: 54.2% had no education, 33.1% had informal education, 11% were in primary school, and 1.7% were in secondary school. Dhusamareb follows a similar pattern: 93.1% have no education, 1.4% receive informal education, 4.2% receive primary education, and 1.4% receive secondary education.

Across all sites, 74.4% of respondents reported no formal education, 17.4% reported informal or non-formal learning, 6.1% reported having completed primary education, and 2.0% reported having completed secondary education. This means that only 8.1% of household heads have formal schooling, highlighting a significant human capital gap with implications for livelihoods, employment readiness, rights awareness, and the ability to navigate administrative and protection systems.



Displacement History

Residence Status of the Respondents

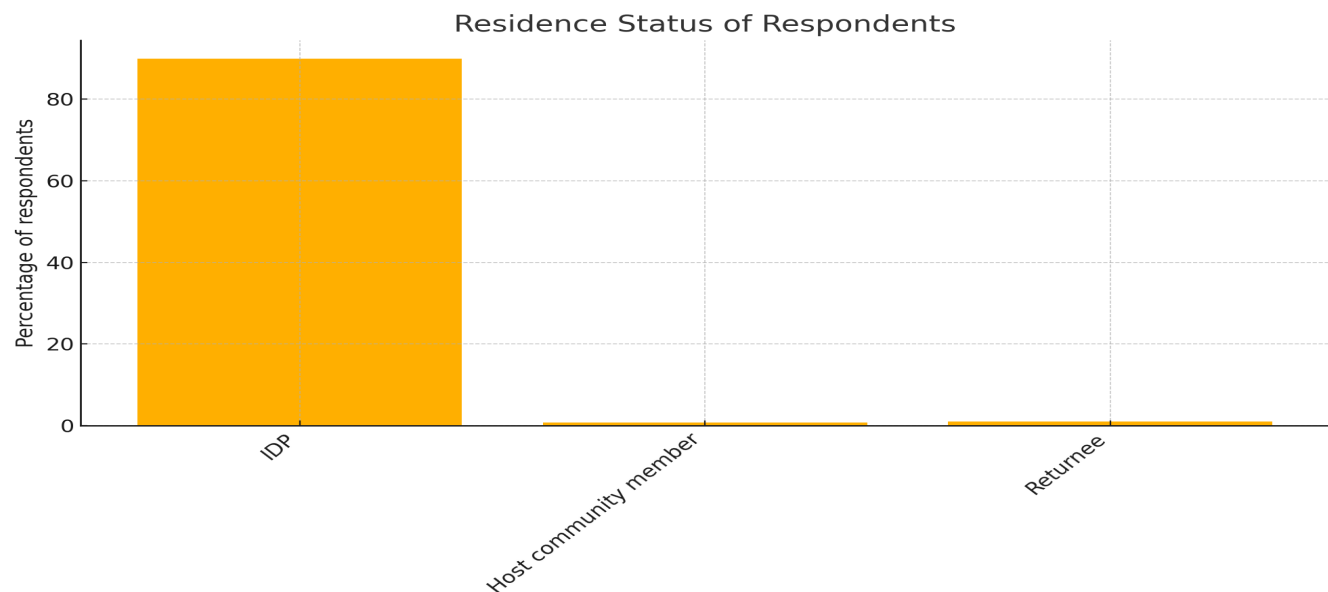
Respondents' residency status varies across districts but is overwhelmingly characterized by displacement. Across the dataset, nine in ten respondents identify as internally displaced persons (IDPs), confirming that the sample primarily reflects displacement-affected households, rather than the broader settled population. District-level patterns reinforce this trend.

In Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) IDPs constitute the dominant group, with 197 respondents (56%), followed by a very small number of host community members (*Only one host community respondent was captured in Banadir, limiting the interpretability of percentage-based comparisons for this group*), two returnees, and one refugee. Hence Due to the very small number of host community respondents, percentages should be interpreted with caution. This highlights Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) as an area hosting a significant IDP population with only minimal representation from other residency categories.

In Bari (Qardho) IDPs account for 83 respondents (23.6%), while host community members remain few (2 respondents), and returnees are similarly limited (2 respondents). **Of the 32 refugee respondents captured in the survey, 31 (96.9%) were located in Qardho**, indicating a distinct displacement profile compared with Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) .

Galgaduud (Dhusamareb) also reflects strong displacement dynamics, with 72 IDPs (20.5%) and no recorded host, community members, returnees, or refugees. This suggests a more homogenous displacement pattern, dominated exclusively by IDPs.

Taken together, the district breakdown confirms that the survey predominantly captures the experiences and conditions of IDP households, with comparatively small pockets of host community members, returnees, and refugees appearing in specific locations. This contextualizes the findings within an environment heavily shaped by ongoing displacement and the associated humanitarian needs.

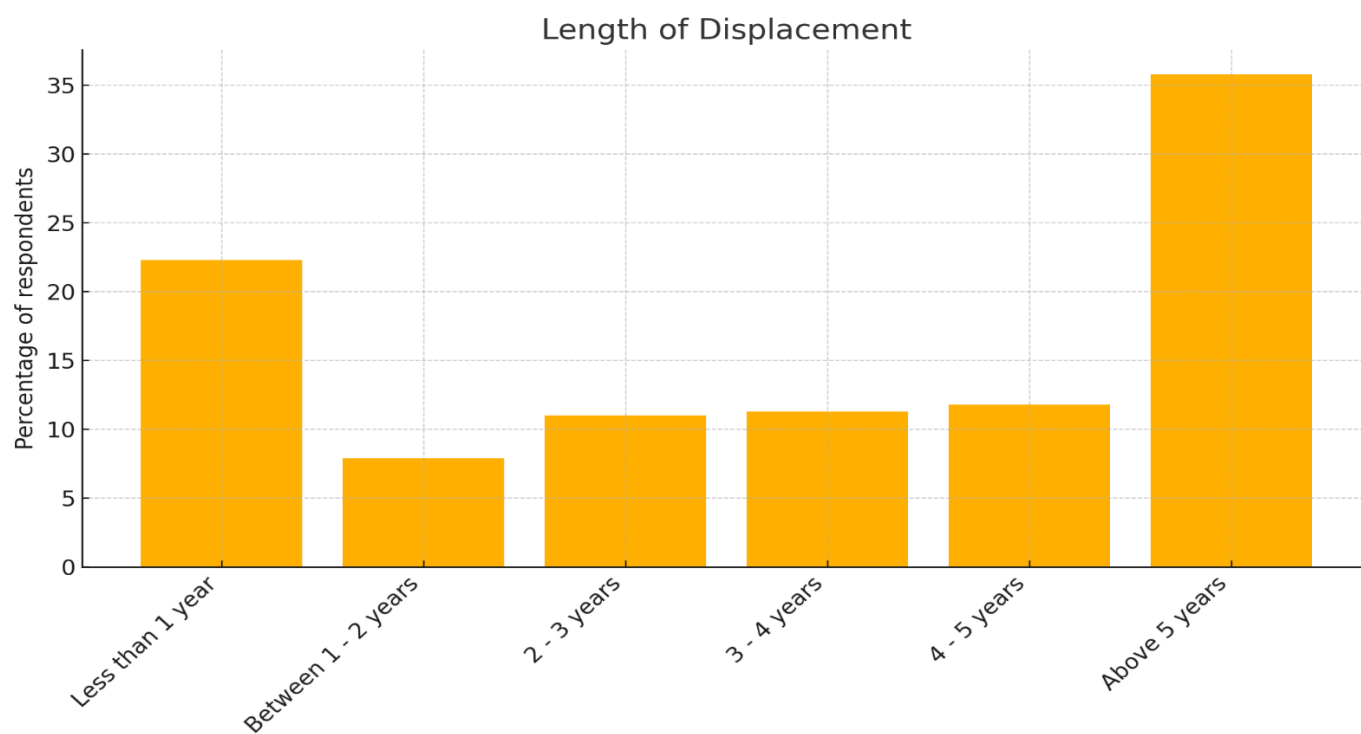


Length of Displacement

Among those displaced respondents, as shown in the figure below, 41.2% have been displaced for over 3 years, and over a third (35.8%) for more than 5 years, underscoring chronic, not temporary, displacement.

The data shows that displacement across the assessed locations is overwhelmingly protracted, with 41.2% of respondents were displaced for more than three years, and over a third (35.8%) were displaced for more than five years, highlighting chronic rather than temporary displacement patterns. At district level, the breakdown reveals notable variations. Kaxda reports a significant proportion of recently displaced households, with 42.6% displaced for less than one year, though a meaningful share (7.4%) has lived in displacement for over five years. Garasbaley demonstrates a more mixed pattern: 42.4% have been displaced for under a year, but longer-term displacement is more prominent than in Kaxda, with 9.1% displaced for more than five years. In Daynile, early-stage displacement remains common (43.3% under one year), yet a larger proportion (13.4%) has been displaced for over five years. Qardho shows a distinct profile: minimal recent displacement (0.8% in the past year) and an extremely high concentration of protracted or long-term displacement, with 83.9% of respondents reporting displacement for more than five years. Dhusamareb also reflects protracted displacement, with 40.3% displaced for 4–5 years and 29.2% displaced for more than five years.

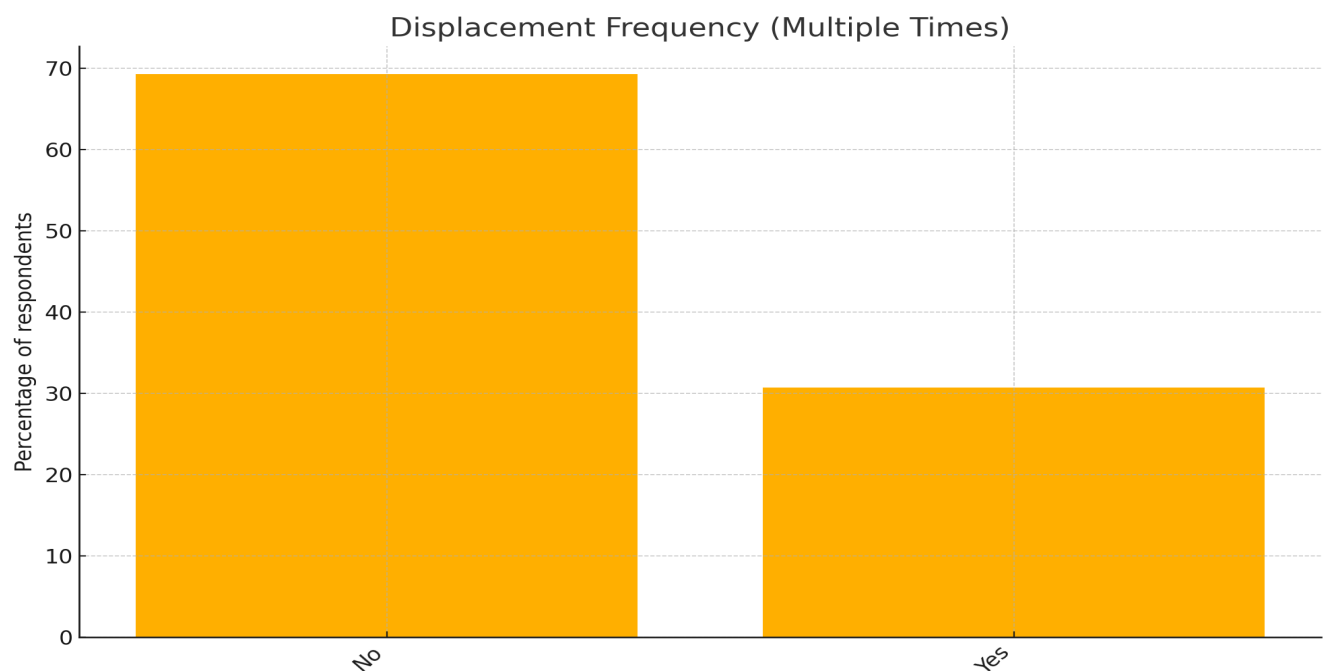
These district-level variations underscore differing drivers and timelines of displacement but collectively reaffirm that displacement in these regions is predominantly prolonged, thereby shaping persistent humanitarian, protection, and recovery needs.



Displacement Duration

When asked whether they had been displaced multiple times, most internally displaced persons (IDPs) across all districts reported experiencing repeated displacements. At the aggregate level, 69.3% of respondents reported a single displacement; however, rates of repeated displacement were significantly higher in Kaxda and Garasbaley, whereas nearly one-third (30.7%) had experienced repeated displacement, an essential indicator of heightened vulnerability, asset depletion, and psychosocial stress. However, this pattern varies significantly across districts. In Kaxda, displacement experiences were almost evenly split, with 48.5% reporting multiple displacements. Garasbaley shows a similar pattern, with 48.5% of respondents having been displaced more than once. In contrast, Daynile recorded a lower recurrence of displacement, with only about one-third (32.8%) experiencing multiple movements. The trends shift more sharply in Qardho, where only 11.9% reported repeated displacement, and again in Dhusamareb, where 26.4% reported various displacements.

Multiple displacement largely reflects repeated movements between informal settlements, often triggered by eviction, insecurity, or service disruption, rather than long-distance relocation. These variations highlight that while repeated displacement affects roughly one in three respondents overall, certain districts, particularly Kaxda and Garasbaley, face disproportionately high rates, underscoring localized protection risks and more frequent disruption of livelihoods and stability.



Reasons for Displacement

The figure shows the primary reason for displacement, based on IDP responses, in the Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb Regions. Respondents reported multiple, overlapping drivers of displacement, with conflict and violence emerging as the most consistent trigger across all districts. Overall, the findings indicate that conflict is the primary driver, cited by nearly three-quarters of respondents (72.4%), underscoring the central role of insecurity and violence in shaping displacement

and vulnerability. Natural disasters, including famine and flooding, were reported by just over half of respondents (51.9%), highlighting the significant impact of climate-related shocks as both direct causes of displacement and as factors that exacerbate existing fragility. While flooding was frequently cited, drought remains a major structural driver of displacement, contributing to livelihood collapse, rural-urban migration, and heightened competition over urban resources.

Economic hardship was cited by almost half of respondents (48.6%), reflecting the cumulative effects of conflict and environmental stress on livelihoods, income opportunities, and access to basic services. In contrast, other reasons were mentioned by a very small proportion (2.3%), suggesting that the drivers of displacement and movement are largely concentrated around conflict, climate shocks, and economic pressures rather than isolated or idiosyncratic factors. While conflict remains the dominant cause nationally, the data reveal apparent geographic variations that highlight how compound crises shape mobility patterns differently across locations.

In the Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) districts, conflict-induced displacement is highly pronounced. Kaxda reported that 82.4% of respondents cited conflict; Daynile was even higher at 92.5%, and Garasbaley the highest at 89.4%. These figures underscore persistent insecurity and violence as the primary drivers of movement within Mogadishu’s periphery. Conflict-related displacement in Banadir is primarily driven by urban criminality, land disputes, politically linked violence, and security operations rather than conventional front-line conflict.

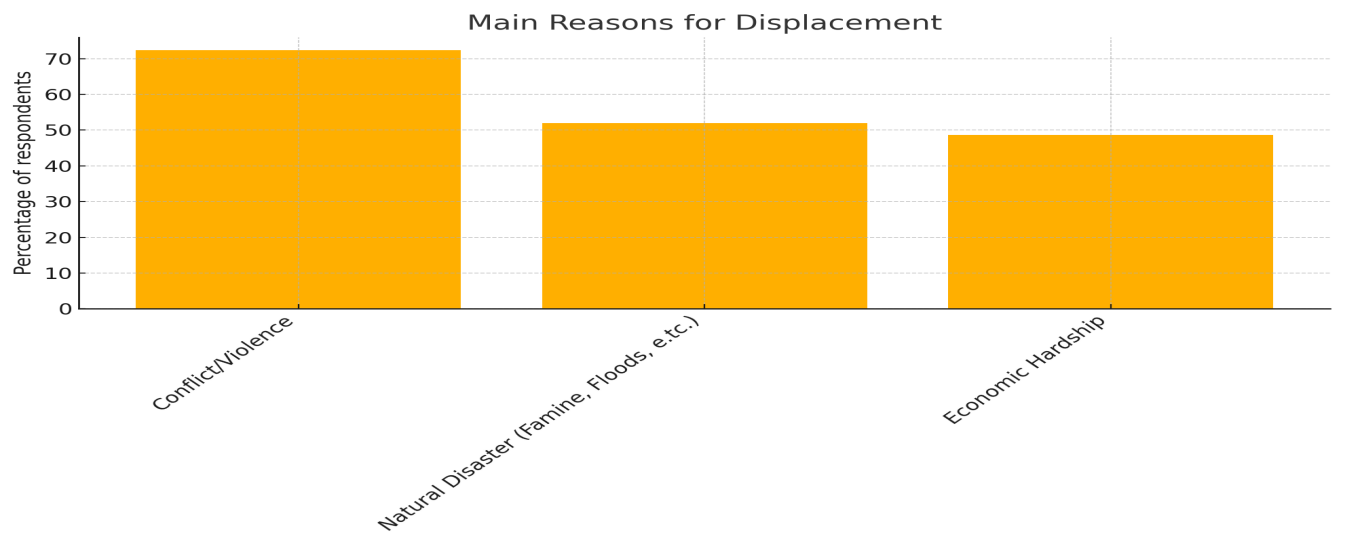
Natural disasters were also a significant driver in Kaxda (97.1%) and moderately so in Daynile (58.2%) and Garasbaley (47.0%), reflecting the recurrent impacts of floods, poor drainage, and drought, related shocks in these urban informal settlements. Economic hardship was consistently reported across the three districts, ranging from 48–60%, indicating that deteriorating livelihoods and rising urban poverty shape displacement decisions.

In Qardho (Bari (Qardho)), the displacement profile differs markedly. While 34.7% cited conflict, a much lower proportion than in Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) natural disasters (36.4%) and economic hardship (28–36%) were more prominent. This reflects Puntland’s exposure to cyclical droughts and storms, combined with weakened rural livelihoods, which push households toward urban centres such as Qardho. In Galgaduud (Dhusamareb), conflict remains the primary driver of displacement, cited by 90.3% of respondents. This aligns with ongoing insecurity, clan conflict, and the presence of non-state armed actors in surrounding rural areas. Natural disasters (33.3%) and economic pressures (undisclosed but present) also contribute, reinforcing the multi-layered nature of displacement pressures in central Somalia.

Table 4: Reasons for displacement

What was the primary reason for your displacement?	Kaxda	Garasbaley	Daynile	Qardho	Dhusamareb	Total
Conflict/Violence	82.4%	89.4%	92.5%	34.7%	90.3%	72.4%
Natural Disaster (Famine, Floods, e.tc.)	97.1%	47.0%	58.2%	36.4%	33.3%	51.9%
Economic Hardship	60.3%	48.5%	28.4%	65.3%	29.2%	48.6%
Other	0.0%	1.5%	1.5%	1.7%	6.9%	2.3%

Overall, while conflict remains the most salient driver nationally, district-level patterns reveal that the interactions between climate shocks and economic collapse vary across regions. Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) faces a combination of conflict and severe environmental vulnerability; Qardho displacement is more strongly shaped by drought and livelihood decline; and Dhusamareb continues to experience insecurity, driven by displacement. These dynamics point to compound and location-specific risk factors that must inform humanitarian response, durable solutions planning, and resilience investments.



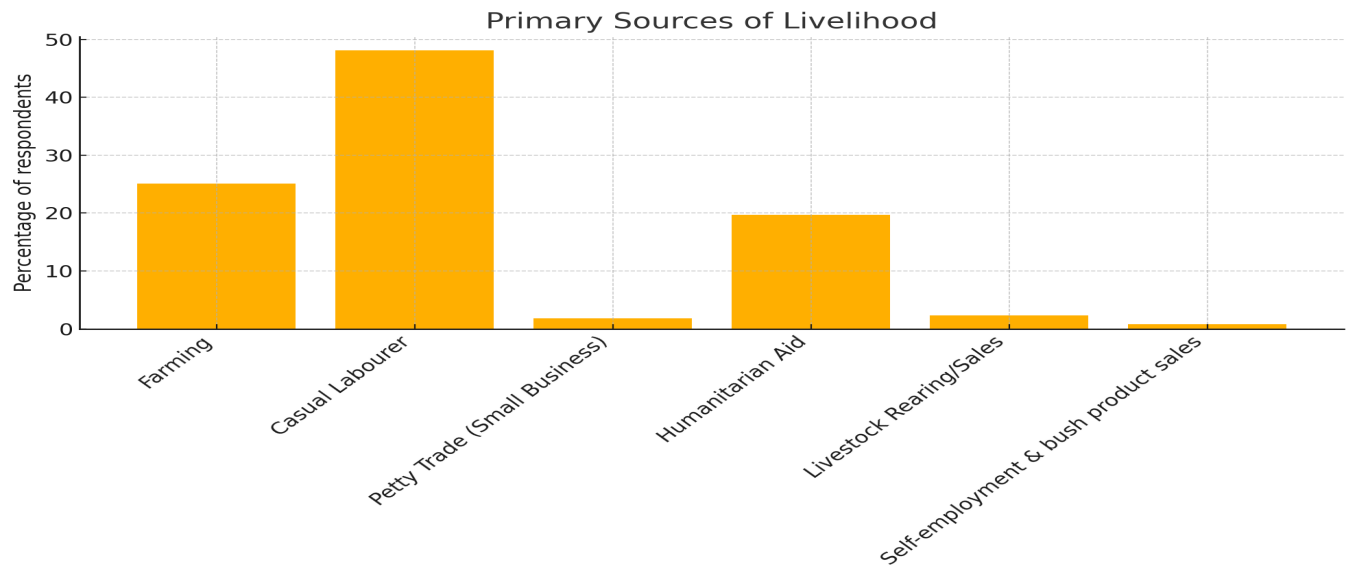
Main Sources of Livelihoods

According to respondents, the chart highlights the primary sources of livelihood in Daynile, Garasbaley, Kaxda, Dhusamareb, and Qardho, revealing distinct socioeconomic patterns and variations across the districts. Across all assessment areas, households rely predominantly on low-wage, insecure income sources, with casual labour and farming as primary livelihoods activities. Overall, 48.1% of respondents rely on casual labour, 25.1% on farming, and 19.7% cite humanitarian aid as their primary source of income. Livestock-related activities (2.3%), petty trade (1.8%), and small-scale self-employment or bush product sales (0.8%) remain marginal, collectively accounting for less than 5% of livelihoods.

District-level findings reveal significant variation shaped by local opportunities and access to land. Kaxda, for example, shows a firm reliance on farming (54.4%), followed by casual labour (41.2%), indicating that agricultural engagement, whether through formal or informal arrangements, remains a critical source of income for displaced and host households. Conversely, Garasbaley presents a more balanced distribution between farming (40.9%) and casual labour (42.4%), with smaller contributions from livestock and aid. In Daynile, farming predominates. Reported engagement in farming often refers to small-scale peri-urban agriculture, casual agricultural labour, or livelihood identity rather than ownership of farmland. Whereas in Qardho, there is meaningful engagement in casual labour and humanitarian aid. Dhusamareb, with more limited economic opportunities, relies more on humanitarian assistance, underscoring structural constraints on livelihood options.

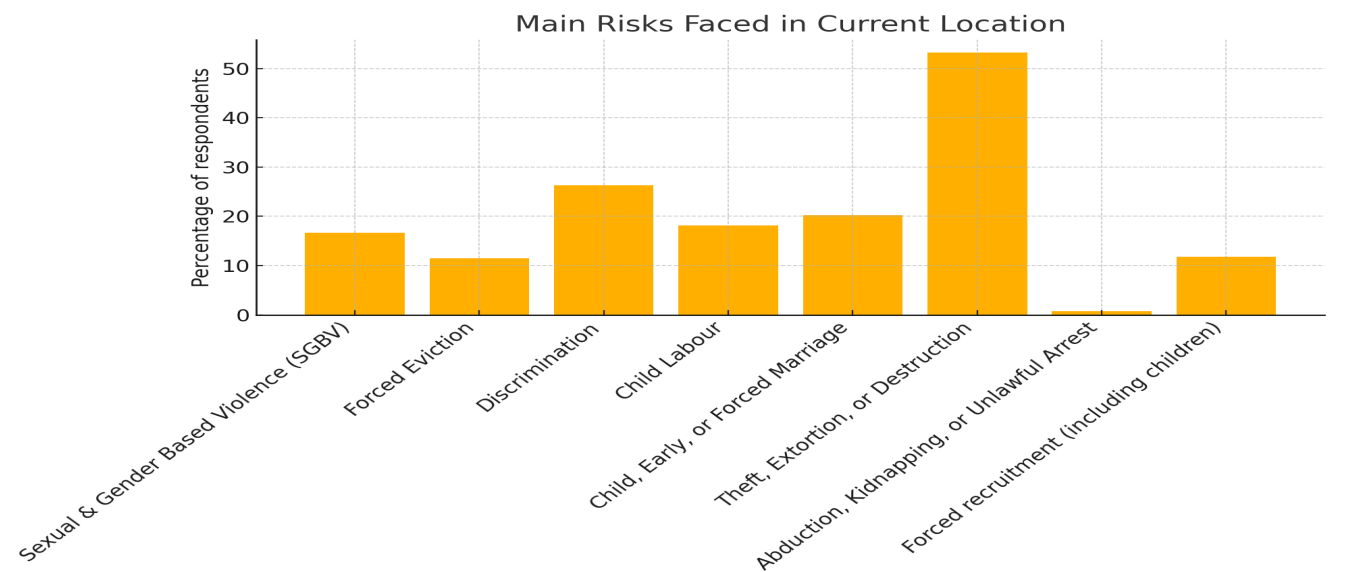
Taken together, these patterns highlight the high economic precarity across all districts: nearly half of households rely on unstable daily labour, and one in five depend primarily on aid to survive. Limited diversification, particularly in urban and peri-urban displacement sites, weakens household resilience and

heightens vulnerability to shocks, including price fluctuations, climate impacts, and conflict-related disruptions.



Risks Faced by Respondents in Current Locations

The chart below highlights the findings from the question asked of all respondents about the main risks they or their households face in their current location.



The analysis reveals significant variations across Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) , Bari (Qardho) and Galgaduud (Dhusamareb) Respondents reported facing a wide range of protection risks in their current locations, reflecting a combination of criminality, gender, based threats, child protection concerns, and structural vulnerabilities linked to displacement. Overall, theft, extortion, and destruction of property emerged as the most widespread risk (53.2%), followed by physical violence (29.9%) and discrimination (26.3%). Other notable risks included child, early, or forced marriage (20.2%), child labour

(18.2%), sexual and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) (16.6%), forced eviction (11.5%), forced recruitment (11.8%), and isolated reports of abduction or unlawful arrest (0.8%).

When disaggregated by district, the findings reveal apparent geographic variations in exposure to specific risks:

Kaxda reported particularly high levels of theft and extortion (64.7%), physical violence (36.8%), and discrimination (29.4%), indicating a generally insecure environment affecting daily life and property. Garasbaley showed the highest overall risk across several indicators, with theft/extortion (81.8%), discrimination (53%), and forced eviction (30.3%) emerging as the most prominent. Patterns here suggest compounded insecurity driven by both criminal and structural risks. Daynile presented a slightly different risk profile: theft/extortion (53.7%), discrimination (19.4%), and forced eviction (16.4%) were most cited, though reports of physical violence were comparatively lower (6%). This points to persistent economic and tenure-related vulnerabilities rather than high levels of interpersonal violence.

Qardho displayed distinctive child protection, related risks, with child, early, or forced marriage (46.6%) and child labour (33.1%) reported at rates substantially higher than in other districts. Risks of forced recruitment (30.5%) and other unspecified threats (24.6%) are also notable, highlighting structural pressures on households. Dhusamareb, as reflected in aggregated totals, shows moderate exposure across most categories.

These patterns illustrate that while property, related crime is the most widespread risk across all locations, district, specific vulnerabilities heighten exposure to other risks, whether gender-based (GBV), child-related, or linked to tenure insecurity, such as forced eviction. Understanding these geographic variations is critical for targeting protection interventions, designing district-specific risk-mitigation strategies, and strengthening early-warning mechanisms.

Table 5: Risks Faced in current location

Protection Risk	Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley)	Bari (Qardho)	Dhusamareb
Physical Violence	23.3%	13.6%	75%
Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	13%	1.7%	51.4%
Forced Eviction	21%	2.5%	0%
Discrimination	33.9%	19.5%	16.7%
Child labour	15.4%	33.1%	1.4%
Child, Early, or Forced Marriage	12%	46.6%	0%
Theft, Extortion, or Destruction	66.8%	11%	84.7%
Abduction, Kidnappings, or unlawful arrests	1%	0.8%	0%
Forced recruitment (including children)	5%	30.5%	0%
Other	11.4%	24.6%	0%

No risk	0%	0%	0%
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The FGDs across Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) Galgaduud (Dhusamareb) and Bari (Qardho) consistently highlighted significant protection risks resulting from displacement. Participants identified key risks, including gender-based violence (GBV), forced evictions, child labor, early or forced marriages, and theft.

Across Kaxda, Garasbaley, Dayniile, Dhusamareb, and Qardho, displaced families face daily threats that undermine their safety, dignity, and ability to recover. Forced evictions, gender-based violence (GBV), child labour, exploitation, and unsafe living conditions were consistently reported. Women, girls, older persons, persons with disabilities, and female-headed households are disproportionately harmed due to discrimination, limited resources, and lack of documentation, as highlighted in the *“Kil with Khalid Abdi Haadi, Protection Officer – Kahda.”*

In Qardho’s Shabelle settlement, overcrowding and poor lighting heighten exposure to theft and sexual exploitation. Women and girls travelling long distances to fetch water or firewood face the most significant risks, as described in *“Interview with Faadumo Ibraahim Hassan, displaced businesswoman, Qardho”* and *“Shabele IDP Camp – Qardho District.”*

In Dhusamareb and Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) displaced households struggle to obtain civil documentation, limiting access to healthcare, education, and legal services. This was reinforced by the *“Dhusamareb Protection Assessment”⁵³* and consultations with the *“SODMA – National Disaster Management Framework”⁵⁴*.

The absence of safe spaces, weak legal systems, and limited psychosocial support deepens trauma and restricts survivors’ coping mechanisms.

Forced Evictions

Forced evictions represent a critical intersection between protection risks, urban governance failures, and conflict dynamics. In 2025, forced evictions remain one of the most acute and destabilising protection challenges in Somalia, with impacts that extend well beyond immediate shelter loss to fuel protection risks, social fragmentation, and localised conflict. Since January 2025, more than 45,000 people have been forcibly evicted nationwide. Critically, over half (56%) of all recorded evictions occurred in the Banadir Regional Administration, underscoring the urban concentration of the crisis and the outsized burden borne by Mogadishu’s rapidly expanding periphery⁵⁵.

The districts of Daynile and Kaxda continue to account for most forced eviction incidents recorded in 2025. Monitoring platforms consistently show sharp monthly spikes in evictions in Mogadishu’s peri-urban areas, where internally displaced people (IDPs) and urban poor households reside on land held under informal or oral tenure arrangements. Rising land values, private real-estate development, road

⁵³ Detailed Site Assessment (DSA): Dhusamareeb district, Galgaduud region, Somalia (March 2022)

⁵⁴ Somalia’s National Disaster Management Framework is centered on the 2017 National Disaster Risk Management Policy (NDMP) and managed by the [Somali Disaster Management Agency \(SoDMA\)](#), aimed at transitioning from reactive humanitarian aid to proactive, risk-informed resilience. It focuses on integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) into development planning, aligning with the [Sendai Framework](#) to tackle frequent droughts and flood

⁵⁵ <https://somevictions.app.nrc.no/>.

and infrastructure projects, and weak enforcement of eviction safeguards converge to make these communities particularly vulnerable⁵⁶.

While Banadir dominates national figures, eviction risk is increasingly geographically diffuse. In Galgaduud (Dhusamareb) especially Qardho (also referred to as Gardo), 2025 risk assessments highlight growing pressure linked to urban expansion, land speculation, and insufficient allocation of public land for displacement-affected populations. Similarly, in Galmudug, Dhusamareb features IDP sites assessed as being at imminent risk of eviction, including in connection with planned infrastructure and development projects that require careful resettlement and compensation safeguards. Peri-urban corridors such as Garasbaley, historically affected by road construction and development along the Mogadishu–Afgooye axis, continue to face similar drivers in 2025⁵⁷.

Several interlinked trends define the 2025 eviction environment. First, urban and peri-urban concentration has intensified. Evictions are no longer sporadic shocks but a structural feature of rapid urbanisation, with displacement increasingly used as a mechanism to clear informally settled land for development. Second, economic and land-value pressures have accelerated eviction dynamics: landholders and investors frequently reclaim land as prices rise, while municipal planning and enforcement mechanisms struggle to keep pace⁵⁸.

Third, eviction modalities are shifting. Monitoring indicates a move from informal pressure and threats toward more overt demolitions, sometimes involving security actors, resulting in the immediate destruction of shelters and household assets. These practices sharply reduce households' ability to cope or recover. Finally, while eviction risk mapping, housing-land-and-property (HLP) programming, and national eviction guidelines exist, preventive and mitigating responses remain under-resourced, and implementation at municipal level is inconsistent relative to the scale of need⁵⁹.

Forced evictions in 2025 generate a cascade of protection risks. The immediate loss of shelter and property produces acute homelessness and urgent needs for emergency shelter, NFIs, WASH, and cash support. Displacement following eviction significantly increases gender-based violence risks, particularly for women, adolescent girls, and female-headed households who face heightened exposure to exploitation, transactional sex, and domestic violence amid the loss of housing and livelihoods⁶⁰.

Children are also disproportionately affected. Evicted households often resort to negative coping strategies, including child labour, school withdrawal, and in highly insecure contexts increased vulnerability to recruitment by armed actors. Beyond individual risks, evictions fracture social networks and community cohesion, eroding informal protection mechanisms that are critical for resilience. The frequent loss of identity documents and tenancy records further entrenches vulnerability, limiting access to services, legal remedies, compensation, and longer-term solutions.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

Evictions also tend to trigger secondary displacement. Families frequently relocate to other informal settlements, increasing congestion, competition over scarce services, and the likelihood of subsequent evictions creating a self-reinforcing displacement cycle documented throughout 2025.

The interaction between evictions and local conflict dynamics is particularly pronounced in urban Somalia. In Mogadishu, Dhusamareb, and Qardho, complex clan geographies mean that evictions perceived as selective, politicised, or state-endorsed can rapidly inflame communal grievances. Mass evictions have already sparked protests and, at times, violent confrontations, especially where demolitions are carried out with security involvement.

Municipal authorities face legitimate risks when evictions proceed without consultation, compensation, or alternatives. At the same time, displaced youth deprived of livelihoods and protection networks become more susceptible to recruitment by armed actors, introducing longer-term security risks that extend beyond the immediate humanitarian impact.

The 2025 evidence base points to clear operational priorities. Eviction response cannot remain reactive or Banadir-only. It requires scaled early-warning systems, rapid protection and legal/HLP response capacity, and proactive engagement with municipal authorities and development actors. Where relocation is unavoidable, protection-led, conflict-sensitive planning grounded in consultation, transparency, and adequate compensation is essential to avoid exacerbating harm or triggering new tensions.

In sum, forced evictions in Somalia in 2025 represent a structural urban protection crisis, not isolated incidents. Banadir, particularly Daynile and Kaxda continues to absorb the largest shock, but rising risks in Puntland and Galmudug signal a broader national challenge linked to urbanisation, development pressure, and weak tenure security. Without sustained investment in eviction prevention, legal and HLP safeguards, cash-based support, and conflict-sensitive relocation planning, evictions will continue to drive humanitarian needs, undermine social cohesion, and heighten localised instability across multiple regions⁶¹.

Prevalence of Rights Violations Among Households.

The prevalence of rights violations among surveyed households is substantial: 23.8% reported that at least one member experienced a rights violation during the reference period. While this equates to roughly one in four households nationally, the distribution varies sharply across districts.

In Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) reported violations remain relatively low but consistent across sites, Kaxda (8.8%), Garasbaley (9.1%), and Daynile (9%), indicating persistent but comparatively moderate levels of harm.

In contrast, Qardho in Bari (Qardho) shows a markedly higher prevalence at 18.6%, suggesting elevated exposure to risks such as exploitation, forced evictions, or other protection concerns.

The most striking pattern emerges in Galgaduud (Dhusamareb), where 73.6% of households reported experiencing a rights violation, pointing to acute protection needs and potentially widespread insecurity

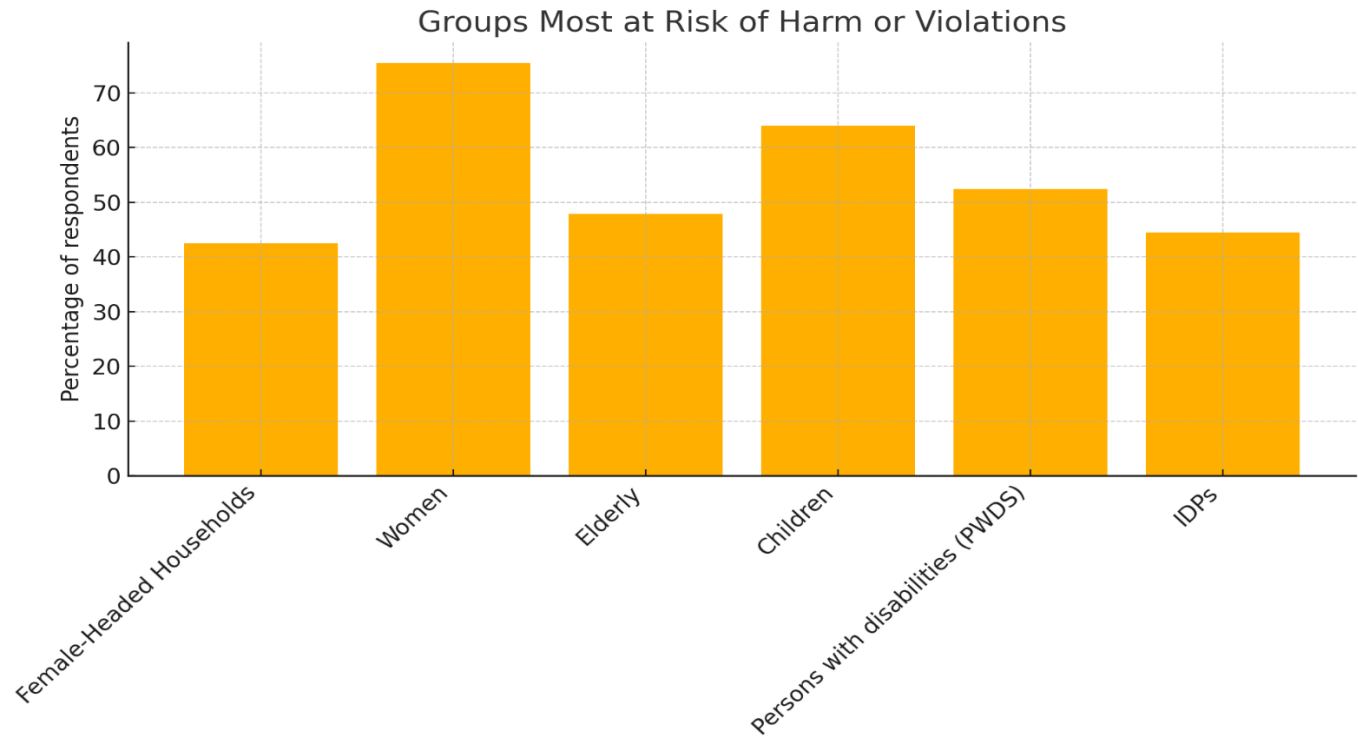
⁶¹ Ibid.

or systemic vulnerabilities. Taken together, these findings underline the substantial protection risks faced by displaced and host communities, particularly in regions with ongoing conflict dynamics or weak governance structures. The overall rate is likely an underestimation, given the well-documented underreporting of sensitive issues such as GBV, exploitation, or illegal evictions.



Vulnerable Groups at Risk of Harm or Violations

When asked which groups are most at risk of harm or violations, responses reveal significant variation across Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb, highlighting key vulnerabilities in each community.



Across all survey locations, respondents consistently identified certain groups as being at heightened risk

of harm or rights violations. Women (75.4%) and children (63.9%) were most frequently cited, followed by persons with disabilities (52.4%), older persons (47.8%), internally displaced persons (44.5%), and female-headed households (42.5%). These patterns illustrate how gender, age, disability, and displacement intersect to produce complex and overlapping vulnerabilities. Households facing multiple forms of marginalization, such as women, persons with disabilities, and IDPs, are perceived to bear the most significant risk of violence, exploitation, and rights violations. Persons with disabilities face compounded protection risks due to mobility barriers, limited access to information, and exclusion from community decision-making.

While overall vulnerability patterns are consistent, the magnitude and distribution of risks vary across regions, reflecting differences in displacement dynamics, service pressures, social structures, and local protection environments. In Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) validated quantitative data show consistently elevated vulnerability across all demographic groups: women (82%), older persons (65.1%), children (63.6%), PWDs (54.7%). These results reflect the pressures of dense, protracted urban displacement, where service congestion, limited livelihoods, and weak protection mechanisms heighten risks across multiple groups. Women and children remain the most at risk, while elevated concern for older persons and persons with disabilities points to mobility barriers and limited access to essential services. The vulnerability of female-headed households reinforces persistent gendered inequalities linked to income, tenure security, and community protection systems.

In Bari (Qardho) based on original narrative values, women (59.3%) are overwhelmingly identified as the most at-risk group, followed by children (56.8%), female-headed households (49.2). The exceptionally great concern for women suggests significant gender, based protection gaps, potentially linked to socio-cultural norms, insecurity, or limited access to justice and services. Although children, PWDs, and female-headed households also feature prominently, lower figures for older persons and IDPs indicate different local drivers of vulnerability, shaped by settlement patterns, livelihood options, and community structures.

In Galgaduud (Dhusamareb), women remain the most frequently cited with 83.3% followed by IDPs (79.2%), children (76.4%), persons with disabilities (68.1%). Overall levels are lower than in Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) (Daynile, Garasbaley and Kaxda) and Bari (Qardho) suggesting less concentrated protection concerns, though gendered vulnerabilities persist. Moderate concerns for children and older people reflect fragile support systems, while lower reporting for IDPs and persons with disabilities may suggest either stronger community integration or under-reporting. The pattern points to a context where risks are present but less acute, with women consistently identified as most exposed to harm.

Table 6: Groups at risk of harm or violation

Groups at risk of harm or violation	Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley)	Bari (Qardho)	Galgaduud (Dhusamareb)	Total
Female-Headed Households	45.6%	49.2%	22.2%	42.5%

Women	82.0%	59.3%	83.3%	75.4%
Elderly	65.1%	44.1%	5.6%	47.8%
Children	63.6%	56.8%	76.4%	63.9%
Persons with Disabilities	54.7%	39.0%	68.1%	52.4%
IDPs	48.1%	16.9%	79.2%	44.5%
Other	0.0%	28.8%	0.0%	8.7%

Additionally, several themes emerge across Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb : women and children are consistently perceived as most at risk, driven by entrenched gender norms, elevated GBV concerns, and children’s exposure to exploitation, violence, and recruitment, urban displacement intensifies vulnerability, with Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) showing broad, based risks due to population density, service gaps, and precarious livelihoods, disability and age compound vulnerability, with older persons and persons with disability repeatedly identified as high, risk groups across contexts, underscoring the need for inclusive and accessible protection programming, female, headed households experience persistent structural risks, including economic exclusion, reduced social protection, and insecurity, reinforcing their visibility across regions and regional differences reflect distinct protection dynamics. Bari (Qardho) shows the highest concern for women, Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) (Daynile, Garasbaley and Kaxda) demonstrates multi, group vulnerability linked to urban displacement, and Galgaduud (Dhusamareb) reflects lower but still significant gendered risks.

Hence, the findings affirm the need for gender-responsive, age-sensitive, and disability, inclusive protection strategies across all regions. Tailored interventions are particularly critical in high-density displacement settings such as Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) where vulnerabilities are more acute and widespread. Strengthening community-based protection mechanisms, expanding access to essential services, and addressing the structural inequalities facing women, persons with disabilities, older persons, and female-headed households are central to reducing risks and supporting safer, more resilient communities.

Additionally, systematic exclusion of youth from education and sustainable livelihood opportunities significantly heightens their vulnerability to harmful coping mechanisms. In contexts of protracted displacement and insecurity, this often manifests in engagement in criminal activities, participation in illicit economies, or recruitment by armed actors, as young people seek income, protection, or social belonging in the absence of viable alternatives.

Strategies for Staying Safe

Responses to the question of how individuals or communities stay safe reveal varied strategies across districts. Across all assessed locations, households rely on a mix of traditional authority structures, informal social support, and avoidance behaviour to maintain safety. When asked about the strategies used to reduce exposure to harm (multiple responses allowed), respondents highlighted:

Seeking help from local leaders (65.7%), avoiding certain areas or times of day (41.7%), using informal networks for support (28.4%), forming community watch groups (21.5%), and other strategies (22.0%).

Table 7: Strategies for Staying safe

What do you or your community do to stay safe?	%
Avoid certain areas or times of day	41.7%
Seeking help from local leaders	65.7%
Form community watch groups	21.5%
Use informal networks for support	28.4%
Other strategies	22.0%

These patterns reveal a protective environment where traditional leadership and social networks are the primary safety net, while more formal or organized protection systems remain limited.

Qualitative findings reinforce this. Communities across Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) Dhusamareb, and Puntland consistently reported that they first turned to elders, religious leaders, and camp leaders for mediation, early warning, and assistance during disputes or security incidents, as evidenced by multiple KIIs and FGDs conducted in Dhusamareb, Garasbaley, Kaxda, Dayniile, and Qardho. Many respondents noted that these actors are more accessible and responsive than formal authorities, particularly for resolving intra-community disputes, managing tensions, and reporting theft and harassment incidents.

At the same time, avoidance behaviors, especially avoiding movement at night or steering clear of unsafe areas, are widespread and reflect chronic insecurity in and around IDP settlements. In Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) and Qardho/Shabeele, women and girls avoid latrines or water points after dark due to risks of theft and GBV, and communities describe poorly lit areas as hotspots for crime. Informal social networks, such as neighbors, extended family, women’s groups, and caretaker networks of Persons with Disabilities, play an essential role in sharing information about threats, escorting one another to services, and providing emotional or material support in times of risk. This aligns with repeated accounts across all regions of people relying on family and clan-based systems for safety, particularly in the absence of functional formal mechanisms.

In contrast, community watch groups, while present in some locations, are less common and less structured. In many settlements, insecurity is compounded by weak policing and insufficient community-based protection committees, especially in newer or crowded IDP sites. In Qardho’s Shabeele settlement, for example, residents reported that the absence of lighting and organized monitoring heightens risks of theft and sexual exploitation at night.

Overall, these findings illustrate that communities rely heavily on traditional and informal systems because formal protection structures are weak, under, resourced, or inaccessible, safety strategies are primarily reactive and risk, avoidance, based, reflecting persistent everyday protection threats, especially for women, girls, persons with disabilities and elderly persons and structured, sustainable community protection mechanisms such as trained community watch groups, inclusive committees, or functioning referral pathways remain limited and uneven across the assessed regions.

Existence of Community Support Networks by District, Effectiveness of Community Leaders and Organizations in Addressing Protection Concern

Respondents reported varying levels of reliance across districts when asked whether they turn to community leaders, groups, or organizations for help. Respondents provided varied feedback across districts when asked to rate the effectiveness of community leaders, groups, or organizations in addressing protection concerns.

Across the assessment locations, 46.0% of respondents reported that community leaders, groups, or organizations are present and provide some level of support, while 54.0% indicated that no such structures exist. This split underscores a significant coverage gap, as more than half of the population lacks local mechanisms to mediate disputes, link communities to services, or address protection concerns.

Where community structures do exist, their effectiveness is viewed positively. Among households reporting the presence of such actors, the proportions were as follows: efficient (47.2%), somewhat effective (48.3%), and not effective (4.4%).

Table 8: Effectiveness in addressing protection concerns

How effective are they in addressing protection concerns?	%
Very effective	47.2%
Somewhat effective	48.3%
Not effective	4.4%
Total	100.0%

This reflects a pattern found in FGDs and KIs across Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb, where elders, religious leaders, camp committees, and women's groups frequently serve as the first and sometimes only point of support for resolving disputes, reporting protection risks, and navigating aid systems. For instance, in Dhusamareb and Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) traditional leaders and camp committees are consistently described as "accessible" and "trusted," particularly in mediation and at the neighbourhood level.

Similar reliance is observed in Bari (Qardho), where elders and religious leaders are central to addressing safety concerns, handling GBV referrals, and resolving household disputes. However, the absence of such structures among over half of respondents aligns with qualitative findings indicating weak or inconsistent community-level protection mechanisms, particularly in newer or informal IDP settlements. In Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) for example, many newly arrived IDPs in Daynile and Kaxda report no functional committees, little coordination with authorities, and no visible community protection networks, leaving them without representation in decision-making or aid targeting processes.

In Dhusamareb, households noted that while some committees exist, referral pathways and coordination remain weak, and vulnerable groups, particularly persons with disabilities, are often excluded from leadership or decision forums.

The data also suggest a dual reality in which community structures exist; they are primarily perceived as effective and trusted. They fill critical gaps in areas where formal systems are limited, helping to mediate clan disputes, improve information flow, and support referrals related to GBV, IDPs, or services.

But for half the population, no such structures exist at all, a significant protection concern in contexts already affected by insecurity, forced evictions, service exclusion, and social fragmentation. The absence of community actors is most common in highly fluid, informal settlements or rapidly expanding displacement sites, where social cohesion is weak, and leadership roles are contested.

This has some implications for programming hence the need to invest in establishing or strengthening community protection committees with representation from women, youth, persons with disabilities, minority clans to close the 54% coverage gap, support capacity, building for existing committees, many of whom operate without training on GBV referrals, safe approaches, or conflict, sensitive engagement, integrate community structures into referral pathways, ensuring they can safely guide households to health, legal aid, psychosocial support or humanitarian assistance and prioritize settlements without existing structures for targeted community mobilization, given their heightened exposure to rights violations, exploitation and exclusion.

Access to Services, availability, and utilisation of available essential services

The availability of essential services varies significantly across the region and districts according to respondents. However, it is important to note that reported access reflects perceived and effective access rather than mere physical presence of services. Additionally, uneven access to services contributes to localised tensions, particularly where aid distribution is perceived as inequitable or influenced by power structures.

Across Daynille, Kaxda, Garasbaley, Dhusamareb, and Qardho, respondents reported uneven availability of essential services. Although some basic sectors, such as health, WASH, and primary education, are moderately represented nationally, specialized protection services remain extremely limited. According to the data, health services: 57% report availability, primary education: 54%, secondary education: 6.9%, other education services: 14.8%, Water & sanitation: 66.8%, shelter support: 53.5%, psychosocial support (PSS): 0.3%, legal aid: 12.5%, civil registration and documentation: 25.8%, police/law enforcement: 44%, GBV centres: 13.8% and women’s safe spaces: 13.3%.

Table 9: Services available

Are the following services available in your area?	%
Health Services	57.0%
Education Services (Primary Level)	54.0%
Education Services (Secondary Level)	6.9%
Education Services (Other Level)	14.8%
Water & Sanitation	66.8%
Shelter	53.5%

Psychological Support	0.3%
Legal Aid	12.5%
Civil registration and documentation	25.8%
Police or law enforcement services	44.0%
GBV (Gender-Based Violence) centers.	13.8%
Women's safe spaces	13.3%
Market areas	68.3%
Community Centers	75.2%

Overall, the data show that basic services, particularly WASH, health care, and primary schooling, are present in most locations, though their quality, accessibility, and consistency vary greatly. This presence is often driven by a combination of government structures, NGOs, and private providers, but communities frequently note that availability does not equate to meaningful access.

This phenomenon is clearly reflected in qualitative findings across regions. In Garasbaley, for example, the district hosts 17 health facilities, but communities report low awareness, distance barriers, and inconsistent service quality, resulting in underutilization despite physical availability.

Similarly, Dhusamareb residents report that essential utilities, such as water and electricity, are provided by local providers, but many households cannot afford regular access, limiting their use.

Protection and Specialized Services are critically Underprovided. In stark contrast to basic services, security, and related services show extremely low availability, with psychosocial support at just 0.3% and legal aid, GBV centres, and safe spaces all far below 15%. The qualitative data confirms that these gaps translate directly into heightened vulnerability, especially for women, girls, persons with disabilities, and IDPs:

FGDs in Qardho's Shabele settlement highlight that the absence of safe spaces and weak GBV referral pathways expose women and girls to harassment, assault, and exploitation, particularly during water collection and at night.

Across Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley, communities emphasized that GBV survivors rarely access justice or psychosocial care due to stigma, distance, lack of female staff, and minimal confidentiality mechanisms.

In Dhusamareb, persons with disabilities report systematic exclusion from registration and physical barriers that prevent them from accessing existing services, underscoring that even where services exist, they are not disability, inclusive.

These patterns reinforce the quantitative finding that specialized protection and mental health services remain the most significant service gap across all regions. Access to civil documentation, markets, and community centers in Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb is critical for achieving durable solutions, yet hampered by logistical, financial, and administrative barriers. Key challenges include

high costs, long distances to central offices, and limited legal assistance, hindering Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from securing HLP rights, accessing services, and achieving economic self-reliance⁶². In Kaxda and Daynile (Mogadishu Suburbs): These areas host dense, protracted IDP populations facing severe service gaps. Documentation: High reliance on mobile legal aid due to distance from municipal centers, with limited access to birth or marriage certificates, limiting formal employment and HLP rights. Markets/Community Centers: Heavy reliance on informal, localized markets within or adjacent to camps. Community centers are often overcrowded, limiting their effectiveness for livelihoods or social cohesion.

In Garasbaley (Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) /Lower Shabelle border): Documentation: Similar to Kaxda/Daynile, residents face high costs for documentation. Access i.e. high risk of forced eviction due to lack of secure land tenure documentation. Access to formal markets is often hindered by security concerns, forcing reliance on in-camp kiosks.

In Qardho (Bari): documentation: While more structured than suburban Mogadishu, IDPs still face , bureaucratic hurdles, exacerbated by flood risks that destroy existing documents (12 sites, ~3,946 households) and markets/Centers: Better integration with urban infrastructure than Mogadishu, but displacement sites are often peripheral, creating costs that limit market access for the poorest.

In Dhusamareb (Galmudug): documentation/Services: Access is frequently interrupted by insecurity and weak administrative structures. The focus is often on humanitarian aid rather than sustainable documentation services, with regards to markets, vulnerable to market fluctuations due to disrupted supply chains, affecting livelihoods and economic security.

While the aggregated data provide a national overview, the lived experience of availability varies by region. In Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) respondents report the presence of services, health centres, informal policing, and NGO programs, but chronic gaps in documentation, overcrowding, gatekeeping, and frequent evictions undermine reliability and accessibility. This aligns with the observation that IDPs in Kaxda and Daynile often remain unregistered, limiting access to health, education, and legal aid.

In Dhusamareb basic utilities and some health services are available, yet cost barriers and weak infrastructure severely limit usage. Communities' emphasize the need for mobile outreach, particularly for vulnerable groups who cannot travel long distances.

In Puntland (Bari (Qardho), Health and education services are available but struggle to meet demand, particularly following conflict-related displacement to Qardho. Moreover, GBV services, safe spaces, and psychosocial support are almost absent, mirroring the very low national availability figures.

The combined evidence indicates that service presence is not equivalent to effective access. Barriers such as cost, distance, documentation, stigma, insecurity, and discrimination prevent vulnerable groups from reaching available services. In addition to this, protection services, particularly GBV, psychosocial support,

⁶² Assessing durable solutions to internal displacement at the area level: a literature review (2010-2024) Informed by consultations with practitioners and subject matter experts | Published February 2025 Lead author: Beatrice Riva (IDMC) Contributing authors: Luca Girardi and Louise Thaller – IMPACT Initiatives Thannalechimy Housset and Alesia O'Connor – IDMC.

and legal aid, remain structurally neglected. This gap exacerbates harm, especially in high-risk environments such as unlit IDP sites, overcrowded settlements, and areas with weak law enforcement.

Additionally, displacement status and marginalization (persons with disabilities, women, minority clans) significantly shape access. Even when services exist, they are often inaccessible to those most in need.

When asked a follow-up question about whether they use the above-mentioned available services, the findings indicate that basic services such as water and sanitation, health, and education are the most widely used across all districts.

Barriers to Accessing Essential Services

Across all three locations, GBV services, safe spaces, legal aid, and psychosocial support remain limited, even though women and children are consistently identified as the groups at highest risk. Qualitative findings from FGDs and KIs reinforce the extent of these gaps: participants repeatedly highlighted that the cost of healthcare and transport prevents many households, especially displaced women, older persons, and persons with disabilities, from seeking timely support, noting that “the cost of healthcare is too high for many families, and they simply cannot afford it.”

Respondents across Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb stressed that mobile service delivery models, including mobile health and protection clinics, mobile legal aid, and safe multi-service spaces for women and girls, would significantly improve accessibility, particularly for new arrivals and those living in insecure or remote settlements. Community members in Dhusamareb further emphasized the importance of strengthening local committees to identify the most vulnerable, ensure transparency, and reduce bias in targeting and referrals, reflecting a broader call for more inclusive and accountable protection systems.

These insights collectively demonstrate that while communities well understand protection risks, current service provision does not match the scale of need, underscoring the urgency of investing in decentralized, community-rooted protection mechanisms and accessible GBV and legal support services across all assessed areas.

Situational Analysis

Somalia’s conflict dynamics differ across Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb, yet share structural drivers rooted in resource scarcity, clan politics, weak governance, and displacement, related pressures. While each region exhibits unique triggers and actors, the interaction of these factors creates overlapping protection risks and shapes humanitarian access and programme outcomes. Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) home to Mogadishu and Somalia’s largest concentration of IDPs, faces persistent insecurity, complex political dynamics, and severe land pressures. Key drivers of conflict include armed group activity (Al, Shabaab) continues to shape urban insecurity, contributing to attacks, extortion and civilian movement restrictions, political contestation between federal institutions and local power actors fuels instability, especially around elections, land and property disputes exacerbated by rapid urbanization produce the highest rate of forced evictions nationally, with over 120,000 people evicted in 2023,

gatekeeper systems influence aid targeting, camp management, and access to basic services, often reinforcing inequality and exclusion.

However, evidence generated through this study reveals that humanitarian programming intersects with conflict through inequitable aid distribution creates tension between hosts and IDPs, particularly in Dayniile, Kaxda and Garasbaley, where communities frequently cite favouritism and exclusion from service lists, insecurity night, time theft, militia presence, youth gangs limits safe access to WASH, health and markets and aid directed exclusively to IDPs risks fueling resentment among poor host communities in peri, urban districts.

Several protection risks continue to affect the population. These include GBV and SEA/SH, especially around unlit latrines and water points, Child labour and early marriage, driven by urban poverty, extreme HLP insecurity, with repeated evictions leading to cyclical displacement and exclusion of minority clans, persons with disabilities, and undocumented new arrivals from registration lists and services.

Banadir (Dayniile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) 's dynamics reflect an urban humanitarian crisis where political fragility, land scarcity, and unregulated settlement growth combine to create chronic protection risks.

In Bari (Qardho), politicized stability, rising urban pressures, and expanding displacement are heightened. Specifically in Bari (Qardho), Qardho presents a comparatively stable environment, but with politically charged governance, emerging extremist threats, and rapid urbanization that strain services and heighten tensions. Some of the key conflict drivers include political disputes between Puntland and FGS, including Puntland's 2024 withdrawal of recognition of federal authority, heighten administrative fragmentation and affect service coordination, territorial disputes with Somaliland contribute to population movements into Bari (Qardho), increasing pressure on services and land, armed group activity, including *Daesh* cells in Bari (Qardho) mountains, adds layers of insecurity and disrupts trade routes, land value inflation in Qardho drives a surge in forced evictions, often politically influenced and disproportionately affecting IDPs.

In addition, aid distribution in Qardho is often perceived as opaque, prompting grievances among both hosts and displaced communities.

In Shabelle IDP settlement (Qardho), overcrowding, poor lighting, and unsafe shelter contribute to heightened GBV, SEA, and exploitation risks. Further still, local authorities wield substantial influence over service access and beneficiary selection; if unbalanced, programming can reinforce elite capture or clan dominance.

Some of the common protection risks include GBV, particularly in poorly lit, overcrowded settlements such as Shabelle, forced evictions, often linked to land speculation or political pressure, child protection concerns, including labour and exploitation, and marginalization of persons with disabilities and minority clans, reflected in barriers to registration and service access.

Bari (Qardho)'s context also shows that while stability exists, political contestation, land pressures, and governance asymmetries create protection risks that require careful, conflict-sensitive humanitarian engagement.

In Dhusamareb, resource-based conflict, clan competition, and expanding humanitarian needs remain high. Dhusamareb remains one of Somalia's most conflict-affected and politically fragmented regions. Although areas such as Dhusamareb exhibit relative stability, deep-seated clan dynamics and resource competition continue to drive conflict.

Key drivers of conflict identified include inter-clan clashes over grazing land, water and pasture, intensified by recurring drought and livestock loss, presence of Al, Shabaab in rural areas, restricting population movement, market access and humanitarian operations, historical clan grievances in South Galkacyo and parts of Galgaduud (Dhusamareb) which regularly threaten to resurface, political fragmentation, driven by contested state, formation processes, and weak administrative structures and overlapping authorities.

It was further noted that aid targeting can unintentionally reinforce clan inequalities. Support to one sub-clan area often triggers resentment in neighbouring communities; movement restrictions due to insecurity hinder equitable access to services, especially for women, children, and persons with disabilities; and limited government capacity leads to fragmented referral pathways, creating gaps in protection services and accountability systems.

Some of the protection risks identified include GBV, theft, and night, time insecurity, especially in informal settlements with poor lighting and weak policing, severe service barriers, particularly for persons with disabilities and female, headed households, due to distance, transport costs and documentation requirements, eviction and HLP insecurity, though less acute than in Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) /Puntland, still present for IDPs in Dhusamareb and South Galkacyo, child protection concerns, including labour, exploitation and, in some cases, risks of recruitment.

Overall, Dhusamareb conflict profile is deeply rooted in resource scarcity, clan power dynamics, and governance fragility, with humanitarian programming vulnerable to politicization if not carefully managed.

Across Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb, several common themes emerged:

- a. Resource Competition as a Core Conflict Trigger; Urban land competition in Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) and Bari (Qardho) to forced evictions, and rural land and water competition in Dhusamareb - inter, clan clashes,
- b. Governance fragmentation and politicization such as the FGS–Puntland tensions weaken coordination, Mixed authority structures in Dhusamareb produce inconsistent rule of law, and Local powerbrokers and gatekeepers shape service access in Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) .
- c. Armed group activity, such as Al-Shabaab, significantly affects Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) and Dhusamareb, and *Daesh* elements influence conflict patterns in Bari (Qardho).
- d. Protection Risks overlap across regions, and common risks include GBV in poorly lit settlements, child labour and exploitation, persons with disabilities and minority clan exclusion, and HLP insecurity and repeated displacement, and then finally

e. Humanitarian assistance as both mitigator and conflict driver

Poorly communicated or clan, imbalanced aid distribution is also a common source of tension in Qardho, Garasbaley, Daynile and in Dhusamareb.

Across all regions, communities emphasized the need for transparent, conflict-sensitive, inclusive targeting mechanisms to reduce grievances and support social cohesion.

To navigate these diverse yet interconnected conflict environments, programming in Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb must prioritize:

- Conflict Sensitivity through continuous context monitoring, transparent beneficiary selection, balanced IDP–host targeting, and avoiding reliance on dominant clans or gatekeepers
- Protection Sensitivity through safe, confidential reporting mechanisms; disability-inclusive service design; GBV prevention through lighting, safe spaces, improved site planning, and strengthened referral pathways and outreach.
- Systems Strengthening through support to local mediation structures, reinforcement of HLP dispute mechanisms, engagement with district authorities to improve service governance, and alignment with durable solutions frameworks

The contexts in Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb illustrate that Somalia’s displacement and protection landscape is no longer defined solely by active conflict, but by entrenched structural vulnerabilities that require multi-sector, multi-year solutions. Addressing these challenges demands not only flexible humanitarian programming but also investments in governance, equitable resource access, and community-led systems that strengthen resilience and social cohesion.

This consolidated understanding provides a foundation for strategic engagement with government actors, donors, and implementing partners to ensure that interventions reduce harm, reinforce stability, and meaningfully support displaced and host communities across all three regions.

Conflict Dynamics and Leading Causes of Conflicts

The analysis finds that across all assessment locations; communities describe a multilayered conflict environment shaped by both structural pressures and localized triggers. When respondents were asked to identify the leading causes of conflict (multiple responses), the most frequently cited drivers were: climate shocks and competition over natural resources (water, pasture): 69.1%, clan or tribal disputes: 63.2%, presence of armed groups: 42.2%, political disagreements or power struggles: 26.6%, displacement and competition for services: 26.6%, discrimination or social inequality: 25.8% and humanitarian aid as a conflict driver: 18.2%.

Table 10: Leading causes of conflict

What are the leading causes of conflicts in your community or area?	%
Climate shocks and competition over resources (e.g., water, land, livestock)	69.1%

Clan or tribal disputes (rivalries)	63.2%
Political disagreements or power struggles	26.6%
Displacement and competition for services	26.6%
Discrimination or social inequality	25.8%
Presence of armed groups	42.2%
Humanitarian Aid	18.2%
Other	9.0%

These quantitative findings closely align with qualitative evidence across Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb.

Furthermore, qualitative findings deepened this picture. For example, the study found that climate shocks intensify resource competition. Competition over scarce water and grazing land, especially during drought, has repeatedly been identified as one of the most volatile triggers of community tensions, particularly in Dhusamareb. Cycles of drought escalate disputes over wells, pasture, and land access, often leading to inter-clan clashes.

Additionally, clan dynamics were identified as a persistent layer of conflict. Inter-clan rivalries, historical grievances, and retaliation (aano qabiil) underpin many local disputes. In Dhusamareb and Bari (Qardho), clan-based power structures strongly influence access to land, aid, and leadership roles, often triggering or worsening conflicts when communities perceive bias in resource distribution.

The presence of armed groups and insecurity within communities in both Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) and Dhusamareb highlights the influence of various armed groups, including AS-linked actors and local militias, which restrict movement, foster insecurity, and impact how communities access services and humanitarian assistance.

Political friction and local power struggles, including political disagreements, have been prominent in Bari (Qardho), where federalism disputes and local governance tensions have led to periods of instability. Similarly, in Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) national politics influence local security dynamics and law enforcement priorities.

Displacement pressures and competition for aid are found to create tensions between IDPs and host communities across the three regions. Competition over humanitarian assistance, water points, jobs, and health facilities often triggers disputes. Qualitative data from Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb indicate that perceived favouritism or exclusion in aid targeting can quickly escalate into conflict, especially in overcrowded settlements.

Social inequality and marginalization, especially of minority clans, women, headed households, and persons with disabilities, often lack representation in decision-making bodies. Their exclusion fuels simmering tensions over leadership, registration, land, and access to protection services.

Humanitarian Aid is perceived as a driver of conflict. While only 18.2% reported aid as a conflict driver, qualitative evidence indicates that this is a critical source of sensitivity risk. In Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) Dhusamareb and Bari (Qardho), aid distribution can heighten tension if host communities feel bypassed, dominant clans monopolize beneficiary lists, or gatekeepers manipulate access to services.

Such grievances were widely reported in Kaxda, Garasbaley, and Qardho. Overall, the data illustrates a complex, interconnected conflict system in which environmental stress, clan politics, armed-group influence, and economic scarcity intersect. Climate shocks intensify competition over land and water; these conflicts are rooted in long-standing clan structures and can sometimes be militarized by armed groups. Displacement increases demographic pressure and heightens competition for services, while aid distribution, if not transparent and inclusive, may worsen existing grievances.

This complexity means conflict is caused not by a single factor but by the interplay of resource scarcity, social exclusion, political fragmentation, and humanitarian efforts. In such environments, conflict-sensitive protection programs are crucial for preventing escalation of tensions and maintaining community stability.

Insights from KIs and FGDs across the districts revealed distinct and complex conflict dynamics affecting communities. Participants also reported the involvement of armed groups and local militias in escalating tensions. Additionally, local political rivalries and sporadic disputes over power and sharing were noted as persistent triggers of conflict.

Leading Actors Involved in Conflicts

Findings reveal distinct conflict dynamics across districts, shaped by the roles of various actors. Overall, the findings indicate that conflict in the study areas is highly localized and relational, dominated by clan structures, local groups, and armed actors. These actors play dual roles as both drivers of conflict and critical brokers of peace and dispute resolution. Formal authorities have a more limited presence but can significantly shape tensions where governance is weak, politicized, or linked to land and aid control.

Across Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) Dhusamareb, and Puntland, respondents consistently identify a mix of formal, informal, and armed actors as influential in shaping local conflict dynamics. These patterns align with broader qualitative findings from KIs and FGDs across all three regions. Survey Findings (Quantitative) indicate that clan elders or leaders – 67.3%; local community members/groups – 53.7%; armed groups or militias – 49.4%; local government officials – 15.1%; and external actors (neighbouring communities/cross-border groups) – 8.7%.

Table 11: Leading actors of conflict

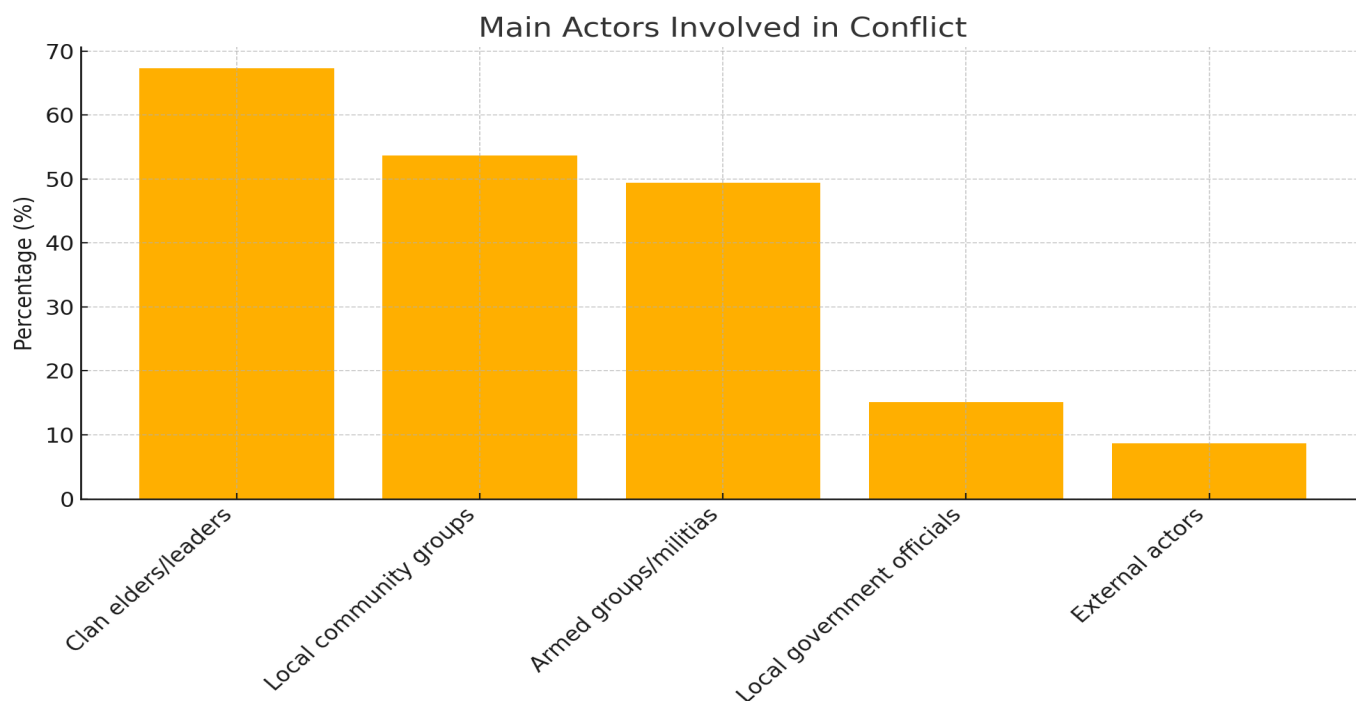
Who are the leading actors involved in conflicts in this area?	%
Local community members or groups	53.7%
Clan elders or leaders	67.3%
Armed groups or militias	49.4%

Local government officials	15.1%
External actors (e.g., neighbouring communities or countries)	8.7%
Other	11.8%

Respondents highlight that conflict is primarily driven and managed through local, informal power structures, with clan elders, sub-clan leaders, and community groups at the centre. This mirrors qualitative findings, where elders are consistently described as key actors in negotiating disputes, enforcing xeer (customary law), mediating land/water grievances, and influencing aid targeting. At the same time, many respondents emphasise that these actors can also fuel tensions, particularly in areas where competition for land, water, and aid resources is intense. Inter-clan dynamics, particularly in Dhusamareb, place elders and youth groups at the heart of recurrent clashes, including revenge attacks (aano qabiil) and disputes over grazing lands.

Armed groups and militias constitute a prominent conflict of actors in several locations. In Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) residents reported insecurity tied to militia presence, extortion, and criminal networks operating in informal settlements. In Dhusamareb and Puntland, the presence of Al-Shabaab and other armed actors restricts movement, disrupts service delivery, and causes displacement, placing them among the key conflict agents despite not always being directly engaged in community-level disputes.

Local government officials are perceived as conflict actors in two ways: positively, when involved in mediation, policing, or service provision, and negatively, when their actions (or inaction) contribute to unfair aid distribution, land disputes, or forced evictions, particularly evident in Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) and Puntland. Although cited less frequently, external actors, especially neighbouring clans, newly displaced groups, and cross-border networks, affect conflict dynamics through resource competition, political alignments, or spillover of insecurity from contested border regions.



Impact of Conflict on Access to Humanitarian Services

Local conflict remains a major driver of vulnerability and a key barrier to service delivery. Clashes over land, water, and aid distribution often intersect with clan dynamics, political tensions, youth unemployment, and environmental shocks.

In Dhusamareb, inter-clan violence and cycles of *aano qabiil* (revenge attacks) continue to destabilize communities, as documented in the Dhusamareb Situational Briefing⁶³. Armed activity in rural areas restricts movement and hampers humanitarian access.

In Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) especially Kaxda, Garasbaley, and Dayniile, armed groups and militias create insecurity, and weak governance in informal settlements limits the enforcement of protections. These concerns were echoed in the “NRC/RDI Conflict Protection Sensitivity Baseline – Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) ” and “Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) Regional Context Summary.”

Unequal distribution of aid or exclusion of host communities can inflame tensions, as evidenced by notable examples in Garasbaley and Qardho, as highlighted in the “FGD with Host Community – Garasbaley” and “Qardho Community Consultations.”

Key actors shaping conflict include elders, local authorities, security personnel, and influential business networks, as noted by “Mohamed Abdulle Ali, Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) Administration.” In

⁶³ UNHCR Somalia - Operational Update May 2025.

the Bari (Qardho) region, recent military operations against Al-Shabaab have triggered displacement into Qardho, straining already fragile systems, as documented in “Qardho Displacement Snapshot – Puntland.”

Groups Most Affected by Reduced Access to Services During Conflicts

Women, children, persons with disabilities, older adults, IDPs, and female-headed households are consistently identified as most at risk yet have the least access to specialised services (GBV centres, safe spaces, legal aid, psychosocial support).

Additionally, conflict dynamics around clan, resources, and aid allocation often intensify discrimination and exclusion faced by these groups. However, barriers such as cost, transportation, information, and social stigma further limit their access to services, even when services are available.

NRC and RDI provide protection monitoring, legal aid, community outreach, and shelter support. At the same time, SODMA coordinates national protection responses, as outlined in the “KII with Khalid Abdi Haadi – Kahda” and “SODMA Protection Cluster Engagement Notes.”

Local administrations in Garasbaley and Dayniile support service delivery, but face staffing and funding shortages, according to the “District Health Director – Garasbaley” and the “Dayniile District Administration Interview with Deputy Director Hassan Mohamud Mahadalle.”

In Dhusamareb, the government promotes equitable targeting policies. Still, implementation is hindered by weak data sharing and fragmented coordination, as noted in the “KII with Mursal Ahmed Dirie, Director of Social Services – Dhusamareb.”

Across all districts, the absence of multi-year funding limits investment in durable solutions and system strengthening. Although national policies, such as the Durable Solutions Strategy, exist, inconsistent enforcement and widespread land insecurity impede progress. Concerns are also raised in “Hilaac Water & Energy Company Interview – Dhusamareb.”

How Humanitarian or Development Interventions Contribute to Conflicts

Aid delivery can, if not carefully designed and monitored, inadvertently exacerbate conflict dynamics by empowering gatekeepers, enabling elite capture, and relying on repeated assessments without visible follow-up. These practices can undermine community trust, reinforce perceptions of exclusion or bias, and contribute to widespread assessment fatigue among affected populations.

Respondents highlighted several factors that exacerbated tensions in their areas when asked how humanitarian or development interventions contributed to conflicts. While humanitarian and development interventions aim to reduce vulnerability, nearly one-third of respondents (32.2%) reported seeing instances in which aid inadvertently contributed to conflict or heightened community tensions. These perceptions are critical because they show how assistance, when delivered without attention to local dynamics, can reinforce existing inequalities, fuel grievances, and undermine social cohesion.

Among those who observed aid-related tensions, the overwhelming majority identified inequity and exclusion as primary drivers. Unequal distribution of aid or resources (94.4%) and favouritism towards specific clans or groups (87.3%) were the most frequently cited mechanisms. These patterns reflect longstanding concerns around gatekeeping, clan politics, and elite capture, which remain deeply embedded in local governance and humanitarian access systems. When assistance is perceived as

benefiting certain groups over others, especially dominant or better-connected clans, it exacerbates perceptions of injustice and marginalization.

More than half of the respondents highlighted structural and operational challenges that further deepen tensions. The delivery of aid in contested or sensitive geographic areas (59.5%), the use of contractors tied to particular clans (58.7%), and the limited involvement of communities in programme planning (54.0%) were identified as significant contributors to conflict. These issues illustrate how aid can unintentionally reinforce power imbalances or become entangled in local political economies, especially when transparency and community engagement are weak.

A smaller, though still notable group of respondents identified failure to address underlying grievances and disputes (34.1%) and perceived organizational bias (31.0%) as sources of tension. These concerns underscore the need for conflict-sensitive, innovative programming approaches that extend beyond service delivery to understand social fault lines, disenfranchisement, and historical injustices.

District-level analyses of perceptions ⁶⁴ regarding humanitarian and development interventions contributing to conflict in Qardho, Dhusamareb, Kaxda, Daynile, and Garasbaley indicate that issues such as lack of equity in aid distribution, exclusion of communities from planning, and the instrumentalization of aid along clan lines are key drivers of tension and conflict.

District-Level Perceptions

Findings from various reports applicable to these and similar districts in Somalia document the following concerns:

Aaid Politicization and Instrumentalization: Humanitarian aid is often perceived as politicized, with some individuals and "gatekeepers" leveraging clan loyalty to determine access to aid, services, and employment opportunities. This can lead to unequal access and the exclusion of marginalized groups, fueling resentment and conflict, lack of Equity in Distribution: A primary driver of conflict mentioned in analyses is the actual or perceived lack of fairness in how aid is distributed. When certain clans or groups are seen to benefit disproportionately, it exacerbates existing clan rivalries and tensions over scarce resources, exclusion from Planning Processes: There is a widely held perception among many Somalis that decisions about aid programs are internationally driven with minimal local consultation. This lack of community ownership negatively impacts the effectiveness of aid and contributes to a sense of alienation, perpetuating conflicts.

Context specific dynamics further enhance this. for example in Daynile and Kaxda (Mogadishu environs): These districts host significant Internally Displaced Person (IDP) populations. Conflict dynamics here often relate to the pressures on existing resources (water, land, livelihoods) and the potential for tension between IDPs and host communities, as well as the marginalization of specific vulnerable groups.

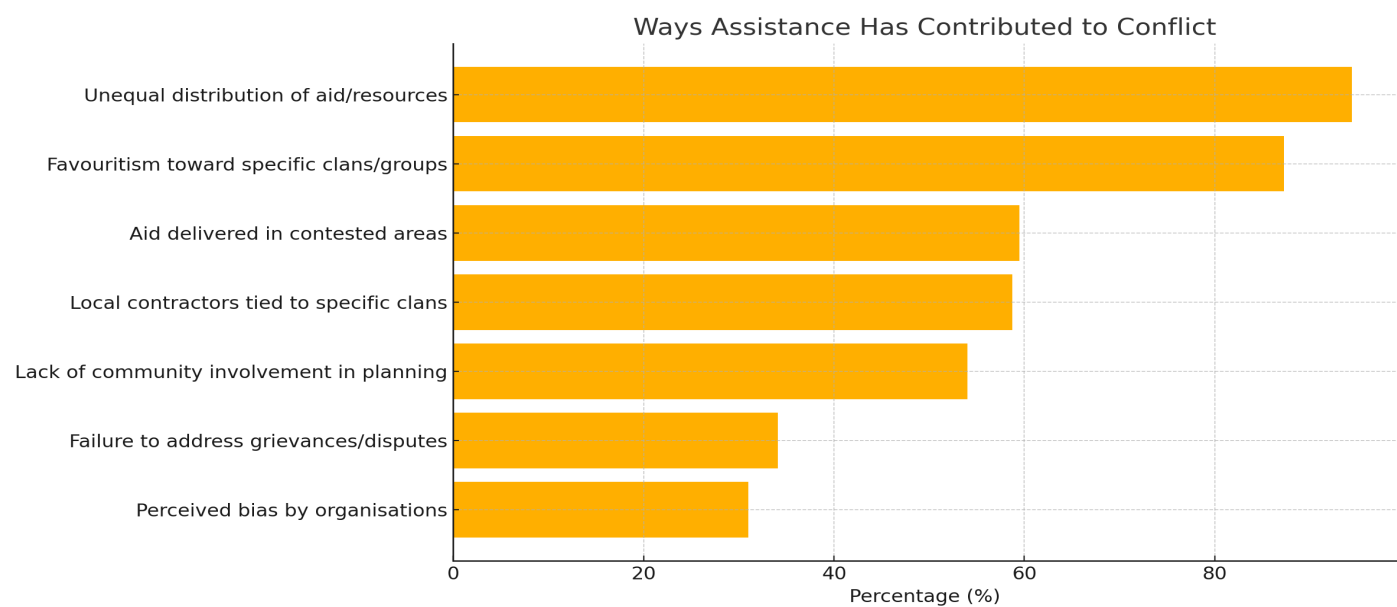
⁶⁴ UNHCR Somalia - Operational Update, May 2025.

In Dhusamareb: Analyses covering this area highlight the strong role of local capacities and diaspora networks in responding to crises but also note that the broader aid architecture often fails to fully integrate with these local mechanisms, creating parallel systems that can be a source of tension.

In Qardho and Garasbaley (Puntland/Central Somalia): In these areas, resource-based conflicts, especially over water and grazing land (pastoral livelihoods are dominant), are a major factor. The perception of unfair aid distribution for agricultural inputs or livestock support can aggravate these existing resource conflicts.

Overall, aid interventions, while vital for survival, risk aggravating conflict if they are not implemented with a strong, context-specific conflict-sensitive approach that ensures transparency, equity, and genuine community participation across all groups, particularly marginalized clans.

Taken together, these findings reveal a landscape in which aid can become a conflict multiplier when not guided by strong principles of equity, accountability, and inclusion. This is especially true for marginalized groups, women, IDPs, minority clans, and persons with disabilities who already face systemic barriers to participation and access. For these groups, perceptions of unfairness or exclusion are not abstract; they translate into tangible protection risks, reduced trust in institutions, and weakened social cohesion. Ultimately, the data highlights that conflict-sensitive, protection-centered programming for humanitarian and development programming is not optional; it is essential. Without it, well-intentioned interventions risk reinforcing the very vulnerabilities they aim to address.



3.3 ANALYSIS OF CONFLICT, SENSITIVE PROGRAMMING BASED ON FINDINGS

The findings from respondents across Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb present a nuanced picture of how conflict dynamics, governance gaps, and community vulnerabilities intersect to shape humanitarian and development outcomes. Together, these insights underscore the critical importance of designing and implementing conflict-sensitive programming that is firmly grounded in local realities and responsive to rapidly shifting socio-political contexts.

Based on community consultations and Key Informant Interviews regarding durable solutions in conflict and displacement settings like those in Somalia, the following observations and recommendations emerge⁶⁵: Communities in Qardho, Daynile, Kaxda, Garasbaley, and Dhusamareb often highlight the following dispute Resolution Structures and Mechanisms i.e. communities primarily rely on customary law (xeer) and traditional elder systems for dispute resolution (over 80% of the population use these). These systems are trusted due to their accessibility, affordability, and cultural relevance. Challenges include the systems sometimes reinforcing gender inequality and struggling with complex, large-scale disputes like Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) rights, especially in urban IDP settings. Community peacebuilding committees and Community Action Forums (CAFs) are important in some areas for resolving everyday issues like petty crime, family disputes, and resource-related conflicts (e.g., water, grazing land).

Additionally, initiatives to promote Social Cohesion include initiatives often involve community dialogues that bring together diverse groups (women, youth, elders, religious leaders) to address grievances and rebuild relationships, projects aim to foster social capital across clan lines and integrate displaced persons with host communities to reduce tensions over resources, shared economic opportunities (e.g., cash-for-work schemes) and improved basic service provision for all residents, not just IDPs, are seen as vital for reducing friction and building cohesion.

Communities emphasize their desire and right to participate in decisions that affect their lives, They advocate for community-based planning and locally-driven approaches to ensure interventions are context-specific and meet real needs, rather than assumed ones and there are calls for better coordination to ensure that assistance provision for host communities is not overlooked, as this can lead to resentment and new conflicts.

Overall, the following recommendations were proposed by the Communities include strengthen local governance i.e. support local government capacity and link traditional justice systems with formal ones. Additionally, secure HLP rights by establishing clear, legitimate mechanisms for land and property rights to ensure a sense of security and ownership for IDPs pursuing durable solutions.

Focus on livelihoods and prioritize sustainable livelihood and employment opportunities to enable self-reliance and economic integration. Further to this, tailored solutions: Recognize that durable solutions are different for various communities and require tailored, context-specific indicators and methods.

Key Informants from government and partner organizations generally corroborated community observations while adding strategic perspectives such as protection Risks that include lack of access to

⁶⁵ LEARNING PAPER / February 2020 Sustainable community approaches to peacebuilding in securitized environments: case study of Somalia

justice is a major risk, with corruption often cited as the main obstacle, HLP issues and the lack of formal land administration systems are significant conflict drivers, especially with increasing urbanization and land pressure, vulnerable groups like women and girls face specific protection risks, including GBV and limited access to justice, often being disproportionately affected.

Conflict dynamics indicate that conflict in these districts are driven by a combination of factors, including competition over scarce resources (land, water), clan divisions, proliferation of firearms, and weak state institutions. In addition to this, climate change impacts (droughts, floods) exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and trigger displacement and resource-based conflicts.

Other KI observations note ongoing tensions along clan lines and the presence of armed groups impacting stability and movement.

With regard to durable solutions programming, partners emphasize the need for government leadership and ownership in coordinating and implementing durable solutions strategies. There is a clear push for integrated, area-based approaches that span humanitarian, recovery, and development timelines ("triple nexus"). Some of the challenges include the vast scale of displacement, security risks limiting direct implementation, and ensuring programs are adaptable to fluid situations (e.g., ongoing conflict in Sudan causing new influxes). It was proposed that actors include stakeholder collaboration, government support, and community-led resilience efforts.

Across all three regions, communities highlight that conflict is driven not by a single actor or event, but by overlapping pressures: competition over scarce resources, clan power dynamics, weak land governance, political fragmentation, and the presence of armed groups. In Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) respondents describe tensions linked to land ownership disputes, forced evictions, gatekeeper influence, and everyday insecurity in informal settlements. In Dhusamareb, inter-clan rivalry, recurrent drought, and armed group activity shape cycles of revenge attacks and restrict movement, limiting access to essential services. Meanwhile, in Bari (Qardho), growing land values, political pressures, and uneven aid distribution contribute to forced evictions, resentment among host communities, and heightened vulnerability for IDPs.

These dynamics directly influence how communities perceive and experience aid. Respondents frequently pointed to targeting disputes, perceived favouritism, and exclusion of vulnerable groups, especially women, minority clans, and persons with disabilities, as key triggers of tension at the local level. Humanitarian support, when not delivered transparently and inclusively, risks reinforcing existing inequalities, empowering local elites or gatekeepers, and unintentionally deepening social divisions. This was especially evident in sites where host communities felt underserved compared to IDPs, or where local power brokers-controlled aid distribution processes.

At the same time, qualitative data shows that informal systems, such as clan elders, religious leaders, youth groups, and community committees, play a dual role. They function as stabilizing actors through mediation and dispute resolution, yet they can also reinforce exclusionary practices or escalate disputes when competition resources intensify. Respondents consistently noted that durable peace and safe

service delivery requires acknowledging the influence of these actors while building more equitable, accountable community structures.

The findings also highlight structural factors that heighten the risk of conflict sensitivity. These include weak justice mechanisms, limited access to documentation, barriers to health and protection services, and inadequate infrastructure, particularly in overcrowded IDP settlements. Insecurity around water points, lack of lighting, and unsafe shelters expose women and children to heightened GBV risks, demonstrating how service gaps can directly translate into protection threats and community tensions.

The perspectives across Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb reveal that conflict-sensitive programming is not optional; it is essential to ensure that assistance is safe, equitable, and does not exacerbate existing grievances. Effective programming must begin with contextual conflict and power analysis, meaningfully engage in a diverse range of community actors, and incorporate transparent, inclusive targeting that minimizes perceptions of bias. It also requires flexible approaches that adapt to different conflict drivers across regions—urban land pressures in Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) pastoralist resource disputes in Dhusamareb, and political dynamics around land and identity in Bari (Qardho).

Findings across Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley), Galgaduud (Dhusamareb), and Bari (Qardho) confirm that conflict in Somalia is multi-layered and structural rather than episodic. Quantitative data indicate that 72.4% of displacement is conflict-driven, and that over 77% of households have been displaced for more than three years, signaling entrenched rather than temporary crisis dynamics. These figures are reinforced by qualitative narratives describing repeated cycles of violence, eviction, climate shock, and economic collapse that erode household resilience over time.

Communities consistently describe conflict as emerging from the intersection of five pressures: competition over land, water, and urban space; clan power dynamics and political fragmentation; weak or inaccessible formal justice and land administration systems; the presence of armed actors and the proliferation of small arms; and climate shocks that intensify scarcity and displacement.

These pressures manifest differently across regions and districts, shaping distinct protection risks and perceptions of aid. IDPs constitute over 90% of respondents, with particularly high concentrations in Daynile, Kaxda, Garasbaley, and Dhusamareb. Quantitative data show that 53.2% report theft, extortion, or property destruction; 11.5% report forced eviction; and nearly one-third have experienced multiple displacements.

Qualitative accounts reveal that IDPs experience layered insecurity; in Daynile, Kaxda, and Garasbaley, IDPs describe forced evictions linked to rising land values, private landowners, and gatekeeper influence. Women-headed households reported evictions occurring at night or without notice, triggering secondary displacement and exposure to GBV. In Dhusamareb, IDPs report fear of movement due to inter-clan clashes and armed group presence. Access to markets, health facilities, and courts is constrained by insecurity and informal checkpoints. In Qardho, IDPs experience relatively lower levels of active violence but face chronic tenure insecurity, exclusion from services, and long-term poverty after

drought-induced displacement. Across all sites, IDPs perceive aid as essential but uneven. Targeting errors, lack of transparency, and perceived favoritism often along clan or gatekeeper lines were repeatedly cited as triggers of local tension.

Women were identified by 75.4% of respondents as the most at-risk group. Both quantitative and qualitative data strongly corroborate this: 16.6% reported GBV (widely acknowledged as underreported), in Dhusamareb, 51.4% reported GBV exposure, in Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) GBV assessments show high prevalence of sexual assault, IPV, and child marriage. Women's FGDs reveal that protection risks are structurally linked to service gaps: poor lighting around WASH facilities, long distances to health and GBV services, dependence on male escorts restricting access to assistance, and reliance on customary justice mechanisms that prioritize family or clan reconciliation over survivor rights.

Women consistently expressed distrust in formal justice systems due to corruption, cost, and stigma, while also acknowledging that customary mechanisms often reinforce gender inequality and impunity. According to a 2025 GBV assessment in Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) between 1st and 4th of September 2025, the Women Resilience Initiative (WRI) conducted a rapid Gender-Based Violence (GBV) assessment⁶⁶ in Daynile and Kaxda districts of Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) Region, which host some of the largest concentrations of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Somalia. These areas face rapid population influx, overstretched services, and deteriorating protection conditions, leaving women and girls highly vulnerable to GBV. The assessment engaged 160 participants, including 48 Key Informants (MCH staff, caseworkers, community leaders, youth leaders, camp managers, and teachers) and 16 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with 112 participants (adult women, adolescent girls, adult men, and adolescent boys). Data were collected from 12 settlements across four catchments (CA02, CA07, CA11, CA15) using KIs, FGDs, and safety audits.

This report indicates that GBV risks include Sexual assault (25%), IPV (25%), and child/early marriage (27%) emerged as the top reported risks. Patterns varied across districts i.e. Daynile reported higher sexual assault (28.6%), while Kaxda recorded higher child marriage (40.0%). Denial of resources and psychological abuse were also noted. Additionally, access to Services: Only 56.2% of informants knew of at least one GBV service point. CMR readiness was low (37.5%), with frequent PEP/EC stock-outs. No formal Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) exist in either district; instead, women and girls gather informally without survivor-centred safeguards. Referral pathways were updated in only 43.8% of sites. Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities was limited (39.6%). Average travel to services was 48 minutes at a cost of USD 1.29 per trip, prohibitive for most IDPs.

Barriers identified include survivors faced with compounding issues i.e. distance and cost (58.3%), stigma (33.3%), documentation/clan bias (18.8%), language/clan barriers (29.2%), and escort requirements (45.8%). Escort restrictions were particularly reported in Daynile (50%). Moreover, coping strategies included communities relying on restrictive coping mechanisms, avoiding movement at night (21.9%),

⁶⁶ Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Rapid Assessment Report (Banadir Region - Daynile & Kaxda Districts, Somalia | 1 - 4 September 2025).

moving in groups (21.9%), and informal gatherings (18.8%). Reliance on elders for dispute resolution (18.8%) and use of male escorts (18.8%, higher in Kaxda) were also common. Men and boys remain largely disengaged from prevention. Some of the community priorities across FGDs, communities identified five urgent needs: lighting at WASH points and pathways (70%), updated referral pathways (65%), formal WGSS (60%), cash/livelihoods support (55%), and training/stocking for CMR services (50%).

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) remains a significant issue in Qardho, Somalia, primarily driven by factors such as the ongoing humanitarian crises (drought and displacement), deeply entrenched patriarchal norms, and poverty. Women and girls in internally displaced person (IDP) camps are particularly vulnerable. Key Aspects of GBV in Qardho⁶⁷ include prevalence and Types: Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) remains the most commonly reported form of GBV, with physical and psychological abuse being frequent. Other forms include sexual violence (rape, sexual assault), forced and early marriage, denial of resources, and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), which is a pervasive social norm in Somalia, vulnerable Populations: Displaced women and girls constitute the majority of survivors. The lack of secure infrastructure in IDP camps, such as poorly lit latrines and long distances to water points, increases their risk of sexual violence, root Causes and contributing factors such as humanitarian Crisis: Drought and conflict lead to displacement, loss of livelihoods, and increased tensions within families, often resulting in violence, economic Factors: Poverty forces some families to use negative coping mechanisms like child marriage to secure financial stability or reduce the number of mouths to feed, cultural Norms: Traditional norms often pressure survivors to tolerate abuse and stay with their husbands. There are also inadequate legal systems, with heavy reliance on traditional conflict resolution which can lead to impunity for perpetrators and lack of Services: While services exist, access to them can be challenging, and awareness of available referral pathways is often low.

With regard to response and support services, several organisations operate in Qardho to provide support and address GBV through prevention and response initiatives. The Somalia GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) Strategy (2024–2025) has identified the following priorities for high-risk areas like Qardho: standardizing Care: Improving access to survivor-centered services that meet global minimum standards, legal accountability: Strengthening legal frameworks to combat impunity for perpetrators, integration: Incorporating GBV risk mitigation into broader humanitarian responses, including water, sanitation, and health (WASH) programs.

This strategy document and community report outline efforts to address gender-based violence in Qardho, highlighting risks for displaced populations and available support services such as one-Stop Centers: The UNFPA and its implementing partner, ASAL, have established GBV one-stop centers in Qardho, providing integrated services such as medical care, psychosocial counseling, and legal aid to survivors, awareness and Prevention: These centers and other NGOs like the Hawa Feminist Coalition conduct awareness-raising sessions in the community and IDP camps to educate men, women, boys, and girls on GBV prevention and behavioral change and capacity Building: Projects also focus on

⁶⁷ The Somalia GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) Strategy (2024–2025).

strengthening local capacities and referral networks to ensure a coordinated, safe, and confidential response for survivors.

Child rights in Somalia are formally recognized through the ratification of international treaties, including the 2025 ratification of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and a 2023 Child Rights Bill, yet implementation is severely hindered by conflict, poverty, and weak legal systems. Children were identified as highly vulnerable by 63.9% of respondents, with quantitative data highlighting: 20.2% child/early marriage, 18.2% child labour, and elevated child protection risks in Bari (Qardho) . Key informants linked these risks to prolonged displacement and household poverty, school dropout due to insecurity or lack of fees, armed group recruitment risks in Dhusamareb, and use of child marriage as a negative coping mechanism during drought or eviction.

Youth FGDs further emphasized frustration, unemployment, and exclusion from decision-making, which increase susceptibility to criminality or to armed group influence, particularly in urban Daynile, Kaxda, and Garasbaley, and conflict-affected Dhusamareb. More than 52.4% of respondents identified Persons with Disabilities as highly vulnerable. FGDs reveal that physical access barriers limit the use of health, GBV, and legal services, a lack of targeted information excludes persons with sensory or intellectual disabilities, and aid distribution processes often overlook disability-related needs. Older people (47.8%) reported dependency, inability to flee during evictions or clashes, and exclusion from livelihood programming. Both groups rely heavily on family or clan support, which is increasingly overstretched.

Across all locations, more than 80% of respondents rely on customary law (xeer) and elders for dispute resolution, citing accessibility, speed, and cultural legitimacy. Community peace committees and Community Action Forums (CAFs) play essential roles in resolving petty disputes and resource conflicts. However, both communities and key informants highlight limitations: customary systems often marginalize women, minority clans, and youth; they are ill-equipped to address complex HLP disputes, especially in urban IDP settings, and outcomes can reinforce power imbalances when linked to dominant clans or elites. This dual role stabilizing yet exclusionary underscores the need to engage with, rather than romanticize, informal systems within conflict-sensitive programming.

Both quantitative and qualitative findings show that aid can unintentionally exacerbate tensions when: targeting is perceived as biased, host communities are excluded, gatekeepers control beneficiary lists, and feedback mechanisms are weak or inaccessible. Host community FGDs, particularly in Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) and Bari (Qardho) expressed resentment when IDPs were perceived as receiving disproportionate assistance, underscoring the need for area-based, inclusive approaches.

The findings across Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley), Galgaduud (Dhusamareb), and Bari (Qardho) demonstrate that conflict-sensitive programming is not optional but foundational. Communities clearly articulate that interventions that fail to account for local power dynamics, tenure insecurity, and differentiated vulnerabilities risk reinforcing the very conflicts they seek to address.

Ultimately, programs that are context-specific, inclusive, and protection-centred grounded in both quantitative evidence and lived experience are more likely to reduce harm, strengthen social cohesion, and contribute meaningfully to sustainable, locally owned durable solutions in Somalia's complex operating environment.

4.0 STUDY CONCLUSIONS

Across Banadir, Galmudug, and Puntland, protection risks are shaped by intersecting vulnerabilities such as recurrent displacement, gendered harm, service inequities, and entrenched clan dynamics. A multisectoral, gender, age, and disability-responsive approach that embeds conflict sensitivity at every stage of programming is essential. Implemented together, these recommendations provide a coherent pathway toward enhanced protection, reduced conflict risk, and more sustainable outcomes for displacement-affected populations.

Failure to address forced evictions, governance gaps, and entrenched patterns of exclusion risks normalising displacement as a structural and long-term driver of conflict, thereby undermining both humanitarian effectiveness and longer-term development objectives. This study therefore identifies critical protection risks, service delivery gaps, and systemic barriers that constrain vulnerable populations' access to essential resources and rights in Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb. The conclusions presented are grounded in a mixed-methods analysis, drawing on district-level quantitative data (including percentage distributions), complemented by qualitative evidence from Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIs), which together provide contextual depth and validation of observed trends.

Protracted conflict and climate-driven displacement: most respondents are long-term IDPs displaced primarily by conflict, with climate shocks and economic hardship serving as reinforcing factors.

- Deep structural vulnerability: very low education levels, heavy reliance on casual labor and humanitarian aid, and a high proportion of female-headed or women-led households underpin widespread vulnerability.
- Gendered and age-based risk: women and children are systematically perceived as the most at risk in all locations, with persons with disabilities, older adults, IDPs, and female-headed households facing layered vulnerabilities.
- Protection risks are multi-dimensional: Households face overlapping risks: theft/extortion, GBV, child labour, forced marriage, and forced evictions, all in the context of limited formal protection services.
- Service availability remains uneven and insufficient across locations. While basic services such as health care, WASH, and primary education are present in many areas, access to specialized protection, legal assistance (including civil documentation and legal identity services), and psychosocial support is extremely limited. Access to markets, community centres, and other social infrastructure is also inconsistent, particularly for displaced and returnee populations. These gaps are compounded by financial constraints, distance, insecurity, and social barriers, disproportionately affecting women, persons with disabilities, and households lacking civil documentation, and significantly undermining safe access to services and livelihood opportunities. Community structures matter but are uneven: where community leaders and groups exist, they are generally perceived as effective; yet over half of respondents lack such formal networks to support them.
- Aid and interventions can be conflict-sensitive or conflict-driven: perceived inequities, clan favouritism, limited participation, and a lack of transparency in aid programming are significant drivers of local tensions.

Additional findings from Household Surveys, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) reveal that communities face persistent threats, including Gender-Based Violence (GBV), forced evictions, theft, and exploitation. Women, children, persons with disabilities, and minority clans were consistently identified as the groups most at risk, underscoring the urgent need for targeted protection interventions.

Access remains a significant challenge, despite the availability of some basic services, owing to high costs, long distances, and insecurity. The recurrent disruptions caused by conflict and insecurity further hinder access to services.

Furthermore, while communities have adopted informal mechanisms, such as self-organized watch groups and reliance on local leaders, these efforts are insufficient to address complex protection needs. Formal protection services remain limited, and coordination between humanitarian actors and local authorities is weak, contributing to service gaps and inequitable aid distribution.

The study underscores that poorly coordinated interventions, perceptions of bias, and unequal resource distribution can exacerbate existing tensions.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations are grounded in comprehensive analysis of KIIs, FGDs, and quantitative data collected across Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb. The findings highlight interlinked protection risks, service access barriers, and conflict dynamics that shape displacement experiences. Addressing these challenges requires conflict-sensitive, inclusive, and integrated approaches that respond simultaneously to immediate protection needs and the structural drivers of vulnerability.

Strengthening protection outcomes in Somalia goes beyond service expansion. It requires accountable systems, inclusive governance, and community trust but combining gender and age responsive protection, accessible services, transparent targeting, sustainable livelihoods, and conflict-sensitive practice. The following recommendations reflect priorities consistently articulated by affected communities across Banadir (Kaxda, Daynile, Garasbaley), Galgaduud (Dhusamareb), and Bari (Qardho), and outline pathways towards safer, dignified, and durable solutions.

5.1 Immediate Protection and Access to Essential Services

5.1.1 Strengthen gender- and age-responsive protection programming

Women, girls, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities face disproportionate exposure to violence, exploitation, and exclusion across all assessed locations. Risks are particularly acute in overcrowded and under-served IDP settlements, including Daynile, Kaxda, and Shabeele camp in Qardho.

Recommended actions:

- Prioritise high-risk groups in targeting, case management, and referral systems.
- Expand GBV prevention and response services, including additional women- and girl-friendly safe spaces.

- Scale psychosocial support and strengthen child protection systems in high-risk districts.
- Ensure protection messaging and referral pathways are accessible to persons with disabilities and older persons.

5.1.2 Improve accessibility and affordability of essential services

While services exist in most locations, communities report that distance, insecurity, transport costs, and non-inclusive infrastructure significantly limit access—especially for persons with disabilities, older persons, and female-headed households.

Recommended actions:

- Expand mobile health, protection, and legal aid clinics in remote and informal IDP settlements.
- Introduce transport vouchers or travel subsidies to reduce cost-related access barriers.
- Co-locate health, legal aid, psychosocial support, and livelihood services within integrated safe spaces to reduce repeated exposure to risk and assessment fatigue.

5.2 Conflict Sensitivity, Governance, and Social Cohesion

5.2.1 Invest in inclusive, conflict-sensitive service delivery

Perceptions of clan-based favouritism, elite capture, and gatekeeper influence were widely reported, particularly in Garasbaley, Qardho, and Dhusamareb. These dynamics undermine trust and can exacerbate local tensions.

Recommended actions:

- Apply transparent, community-validated targeting criteria and communicate clearly who receives assistance, where, and why.
- Ensure meaningful participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and minority clans in programme design, monitoring, and oversight.
- Regularly disseminate programme information through public forums and accessible formats to counter misinformation and mistrust.

5.2.2 Support community-based protection and social cohesion mechanisms

Traditional leaders remain influential, but exclusive reliance on customary systems risks reinforcing inequities, particularly for women, youth, and minority clans.

Recommended actions:

- Establish and support inclusive community protection committees with balanced representation.

- Strengthen early warning systems, referral pathways, and community watch mechanisms, with safeguards to prevent capture by dominant groups.
- Promote social cohesion initiatives between IDPs and host communities in areas where competition over land, water, jobs, and aid fuels tension.

5.2.3 Embed conflict-sensitive programming standards across all interventions

The assessment confirms that poorly designed assistance can unintentionally reinforce conflict dynamics.

Recommended actions:

- Institutionalise Do No Harm analysis, periodic conflict scans, and continuous community feedback throughout the programme cycle.
- Monitor and mitigate identified harm pathways, including unequal aid distribution, exclusion from decision-making, and unresolved grievances.
- Use adaptive programming approaches to respond to evolving conflict and protection risks.

5.3 Development-Oriented and Durable Solutions Approaches

5.3.1 Address structural drivers of vulnerability through livelihoods and climate resilience

Livelihood insecurity and climate-related shocks remain central drivers of displacement, particularly in Dhusamareb and Puntland, increasing reliance on negative coping strategies.

Recommended actions:

- Integrate resilient livelihood support into protection programming, including cash-for-work, skills development, vocational training, and market-linked microenterprise support.
- Promote climate-smart agriculture, sustainable water management, and community-based natural resource governance.
- Link livelihood interventions to protection outcomes, reducing risks of child labour, early marriage, hazardous migration, and exploitation.

5.3.2 Advance durable solutions through land, governance, and planning

Insecure land tenure, recurrent evictions, and weak municipal governance continue to entrench displacement.

Recommended actions:

- Strengthen eviction monitoring, legal aid, and engagement with authorities on land governance and housing, land, and property (HLP) rights.
- Invest in land tenure security and settlement planning as part of area-based approaches.

- Integrate protection and conflict sensitivity into municipal and regional development planning, aligning with a humanitarian–development–peace (HDP) nexus approach.

5.4 Cross-Cutting Thematic Recommendations

5.4.1 Disability-Inclusive Programming

- Ensure disability-inclusive service design, outreach, communication, and feedback mechanisms.
- Remove physical, informational, and attitudinal barriers that prevent meaningful access to services and participation.

5.4.2 Youth-Focused Interventions

- Expand access to education pathways, skills training, and youth-focused livelihoods programming.
- Engage youth as positive agents of change through participation in community protection, social cohesion, and peacebuilding initiatives.

ANNEXES

Annex I: Summary of the KIIs/ FGDs in Galgaduud (Dhusamareb)

Region	Stakeholder group	Method	Number of interviews
Galgaduud (Dhusamareb)	Disabled Persons (PWDs)	FGD	1
Galgaduud (Dhusamareb)	Host Community	FGDs	1
Galgaduud (Dhusamareb)	IDPs	FGDs	1
Galgaduud (Dhusamareb)	District Authorities & Officials.	KIIs	2
Galgaduud (Dhusamareb)	Traditional & Religious Leaders	FGD & KIIs	3

Galgaduud (Dhusamareb)	Development agencies, including UNHCR, NRC, IOM & Save the Children.	Kills	1
Galgaduud (Dhusamareb)	State Gov't Actors, i.e., GCRI, MOHADM	Kills	2
Galgaduud (Dhusamareb)	Private Sector Actors or Service Providers, i.e., Health care providers	Kills	3
	Total Kills and FGDs		14

Annex 2: Summary of the Kills/ FGDs in Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley)

State	Stakeholder group	Method	Number of interviews
Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley)	Disabled Persons (PWDs)	FGD	1
Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley)	Host Community	FGDs	1
Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley)	IDPs	FGDs	3
Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley)	District Authorities & Officials.	Kills	1
Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley)	Traditional & Religious Leaders	FGD & Kills	3
Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley)	Development agencies, including UNHCR, NRC, IOM & Save the Children.	Kills	1

Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley)	State Gov't Actors, SODMA, (NCRDS) Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley) Regional Administration	Klls	3
Banadir (Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley)	Private Sector Actors or Service Providers, i.e., Health care providers	Klls	3
	Total Klls and FGDs		16

Annex 3: Summary of the Klls/ FGDs in Bari

State	Stakeholder group	Method	Number of interviews
Bari	Disabled Persons (PWDs)	FGD	1
Bari	Host Community	FGDs	1
Bari	IDPs	FGDs	1
Bari	District Authorities & Officials.	Klls	1
Bari	Traditional & Religious Leaders	FGD & Klls	3
Bari	State Gov't Actors, Puntland as key Government actors on durable solutions	Klls	1
Bari	Development agencies, including UNHCR, NRC, IOM & Save the Children.	Klls	1
Bari	Private Sector Actors or Service Providers, i.e., Health care providers	Klls	3
	Total Klls and FGDs		12

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