



# SOMALIA BASELINE ASSESSMENT

HIRSHABELLE, JUBALAND, SOUTH-WEST STATE

BASELINE ASSESSMENT ROUND 3 (JUNE 2024)



The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the publication do not imply expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

---

Publisher: International Organization for Migration  
Mogadishu Head Office  
Adan Abdulle International Airport (AAIA)  
Mogadishu, Somalia  
Email: [IOMSomaliaDTM@iom.int](mailto:IOMSomaliaDTM@iom.int)  
Website: [dtm.iom.int/somalia](http://dtm.iom.int/somalia)

This publication was issued without formal editing by IOM.

Cover photo: [Beledweyne, Hiran, Hirshabelle State, Somalia Families in Beledweyne city who has been affected by the floods have been provided with shelter assistance. The river over flow flooded most of the city forcing people to flee three homes to the outskirts of the city and higher grounds. This flooding was one of the worst that happen in the city of Beledweyne, even though there weren't much rains or any in the city, two-third of the city is flooded. Photo by: Ismail Abdihakim Ismail © IOM 2023/Claudia Rosel](#)

---

© IOM 2024



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 IGO License](#) (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0 IGO).\*

For further specifications please see the [Copyright and Terms of Use](#).

This publication should not be used, published or redistributed for purposes primarily intended for or directed towards commercial advantage or monetary compensation, with the exception of educational purposes, e.g. to be included in textbooks.

Permissions: Requests for commercial use or further rights and licensing should be submitted to [publications@iom.int](mailto:publications@iom.int).

\* <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/igo/legalcode>

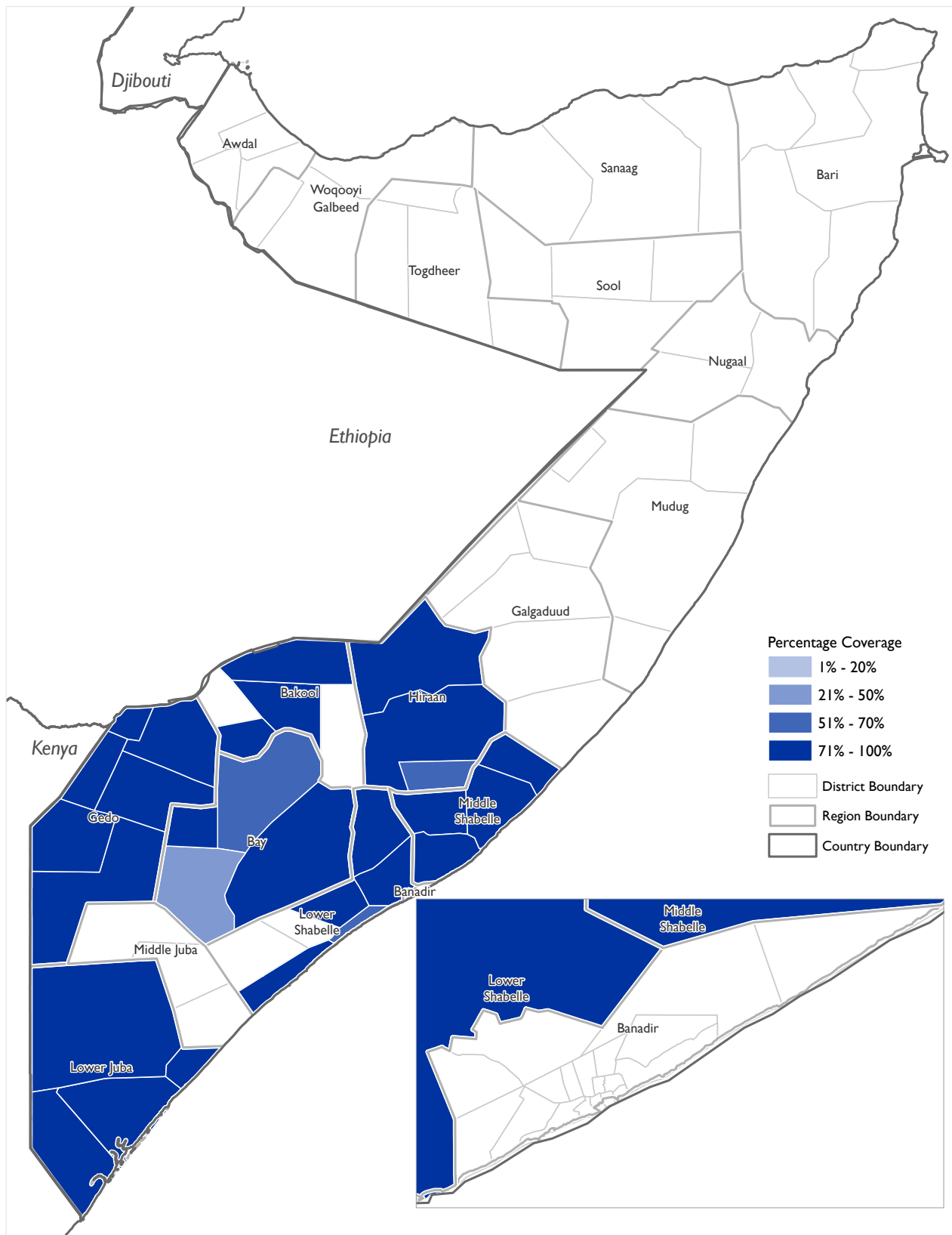
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. REGIONAL COVERAGE	7
BAKOOL	8
BAY	10
GEDO	12
HIRAAN	14
LOWER JUBA	16
LOWER SHABELLE	18
MIDDLE SHABELLE	20
2. ANNEX: LINKS TO REGIONAL ATLAS	22





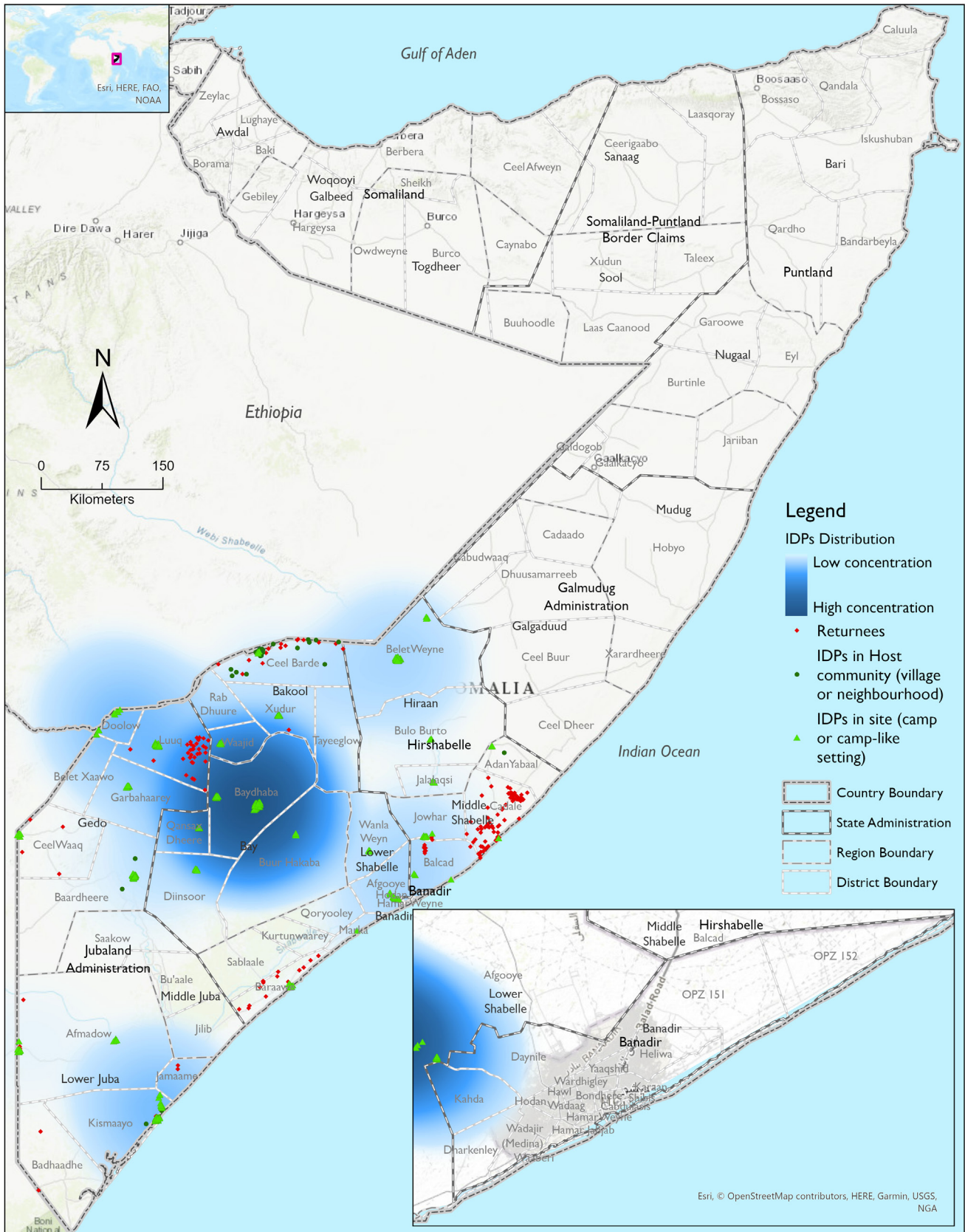
Map 1: Geographic coverage



Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.



## Baseline Displacement IDP and Returnee distribution per settlement



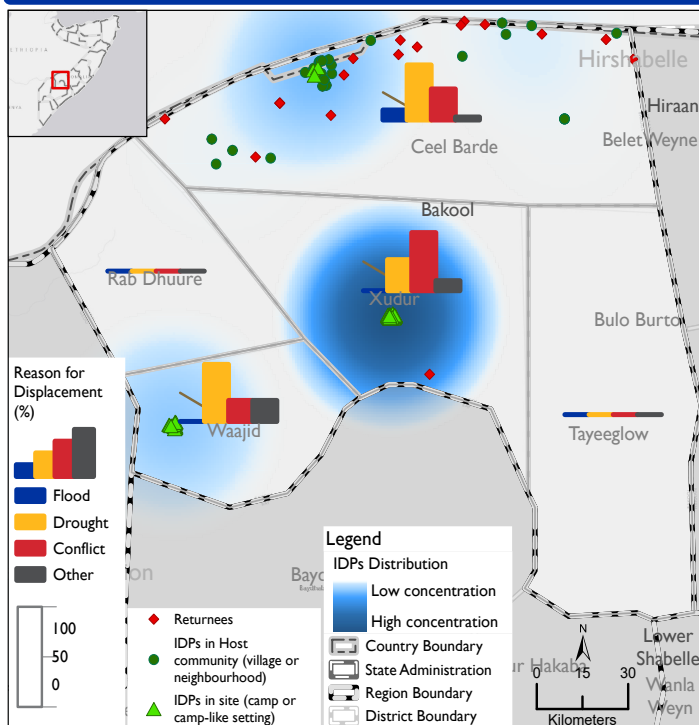
Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.



# REGIONAL COVERAGE



# BAKOOL - SOUTH-WEST STATE



**81,132**  
IDPS

**3,104**  
RETURNEES

**410**  
SETTLEMENTS COVERED

Primary reasons of displacement

**46%**  
CONFLICT

**44%**  
NATURAL DISASTER

DISTRICTS	IDPs	RETURNEES	HOST COMMUNITY
CEEL BARDE	17,526	3,014	58,750
WAAJID	9,858	-	88,328
XUDUR	53,748	90	161,033

## CONTEXT

Bakool region is located in the south-west of Somalia, within the federal South West State (SWS). The region typically experiences hot and dry climatic conditions, marked by infrequent and unreliable rains. Most people in Bakool region rely on livestock, pastoralism and farming as their main source of livelihood activities.<sup>1</sup> Historically, Bakool has been severely affected by devastating droughts. In the 2010-2012 and 2021-2023 droughts in Somalia, high risk of famine was projected or officially declared in parts of Bakool.<sup>2</sup> In addition, high excess mortality rates caused by droughts were observed in Bakool alongside other regions.<sup>3</sup> Food insecurity in Bakool is exacerbated by the presence of Al-Shabaab who retain a significant presence across rural areas of Bakool. Major supply routes are controlled, taxed and at times blocked by al Shabaab, limiting the transportation of food supplies and restricting humanitarian access.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>14</sup> UN-Habitat, Hudur Urban Profile: Working Paper and Spatial Analysis for Urban Planning Consultations and Durable Solutions for Displacement Crises, June 2018

<sup>15</sup> FEWS NET/FSNAU, Famine thresholds surpassed in three new areas of southern Somalia, August 2011 and IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity Situation May 2022 and Projection June to September 2022, June 2022.

<sup>16</sup> FAO/FSNAU and FEWS NET, Mortality among populations of southern and central Somalia affected by severe food insecurity and famine during 2010-2012, May 2013 and Harun Maruf/VOA, Report: 43,000 Died in 2022 Somalia Droughts, March 2023

<sup>17</sup> European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), Country Guidance Somalia: Bakool, August 2023.

## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE (IDPs ONLY)

The majority of displaced people (57%) were female, with 43 per cent male. While most IDPs were children (57%), over a third of displaced persons (40%) were of working age, and only 3 per cent were 60 or older.

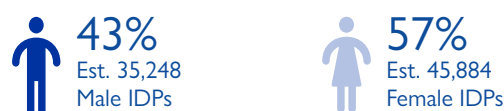
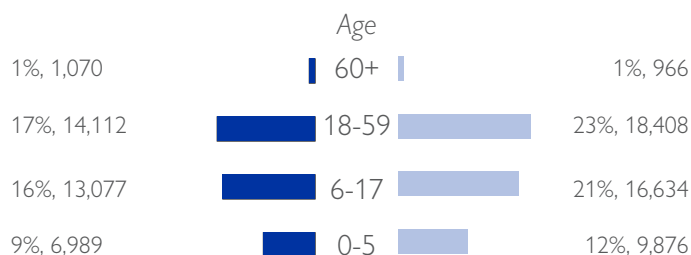
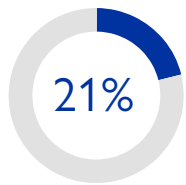


Figure 1: Max. estimate of IDPs by sex and age group<sup>11</sup>



## HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

The majority of households (HHs) were made up of members from the host community (78%, 51,355 HHs), with the remainder composed of IDPs (21%) and less than 1 per cent composed exclusively of returnees (517 HHs).

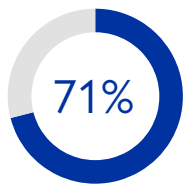


21% of displaced HHs consisted exclusively of IDPs as of March 2024 (13,682 IDP HHs)

## SITE PROFILE

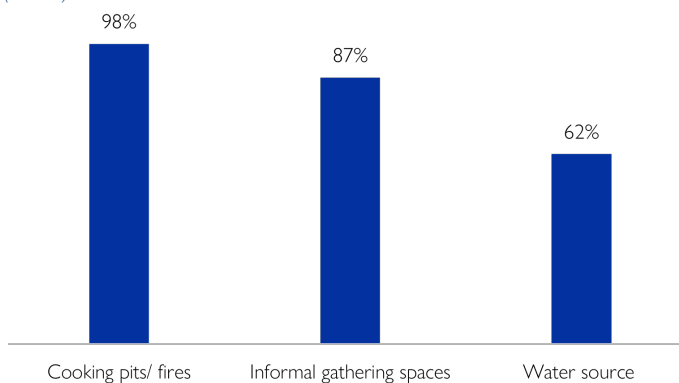


410 SITES ASSESSED  
10,640 SHELTERS



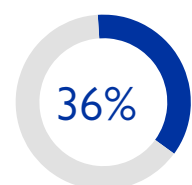
71% of assessed sites were rural (tulo/village, 292 sites), compared to 29% urban (waah/ neighbourhood, 118 sites)

Figure 2: Share of settlements with the observed presence of assessed utilities (N=94)\*



KIs reported the majority of assessed sites as inaccessible to humanitarian partners (68%, 280 sites). These sites were primarily inaccessible due to the presence of mines and UXOs (13%, 27), alongside the presence of military personnel and on-going hostilities related to Al-Shabaab (10%, 16). Nearly a third of assessed sites were fully accessible (29%, 119), with the remaining sites partially accessible, with some obstructions present (3%, 11).

## VULNERABILITIES



36% of KIs reported the presence of minority or marginalised clans in their settlement, compared to 56 per cent who reported no presence (8% did not know or preferred not to answer)

## DISPLACEMENT TRIGGERS

Notably, nearly four times the share of IDPs were displaced as a result of natural disaster since the previous round (12% in March 2023, compared to 46% in March 2024). When specifying the type of natural disaster, 92 per cent of respondents recalled drought, with 8 per cent citing floods (recorded only in Ceel Barde district). Other causes of displacement included a lack of livelihoods (4%), a lack of services or assistance in the settlement (3%), forced evictions (53%), and desert locusts (1%).

## DISPLACEMENT TIMELINE

Figure 3: Regions of origin (% of largest IDP group)

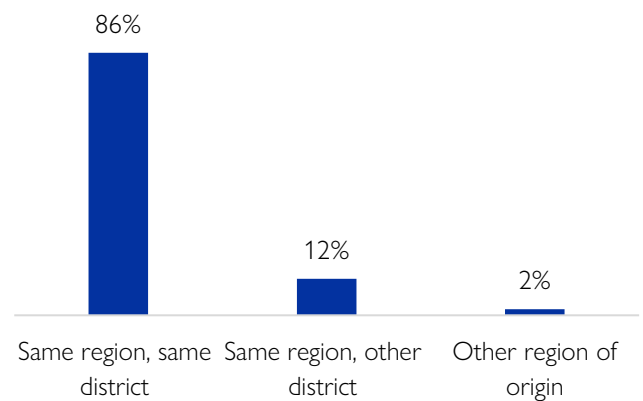
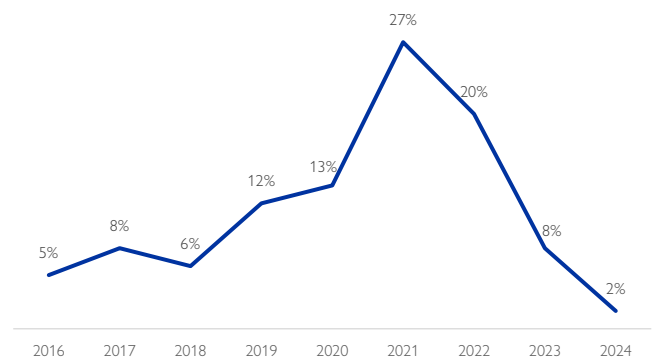


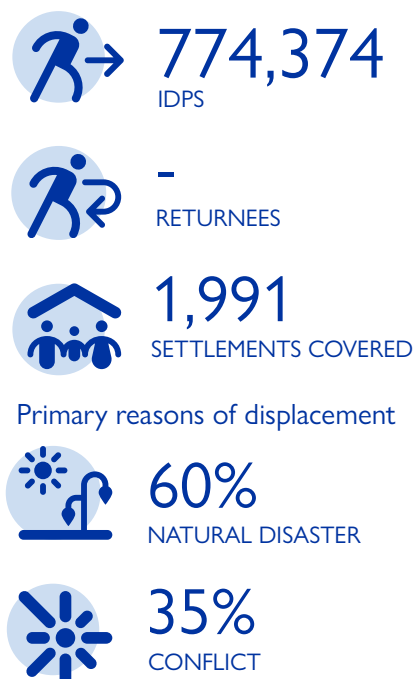
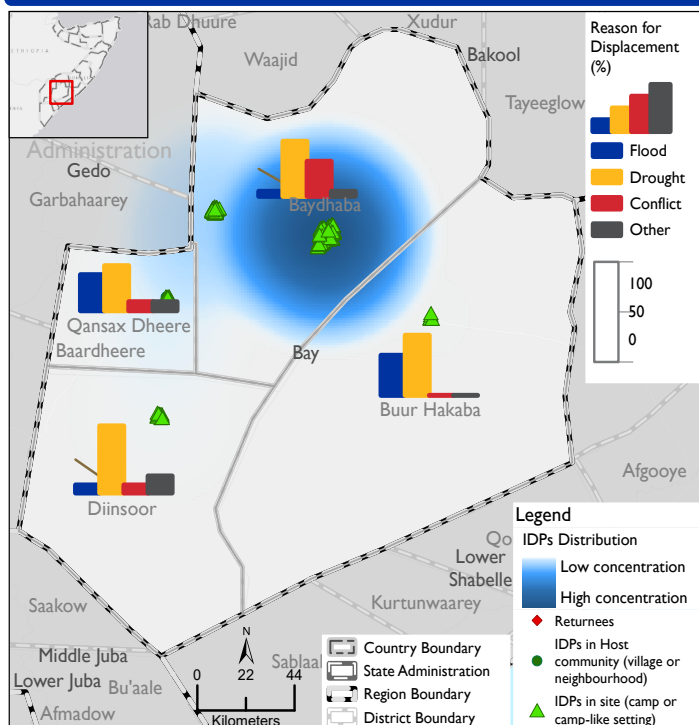
Figure 4: Timeline of first IDP arrivals across assessed settlements in the region



The Bakool region has historically been disproportionately affected by recurrent droughts across the region, responsible for the peak in reported first IDP arrivals in 2021 and 2022. The unsatisfactory rainy season at the end of 2020 (Dery, October to December) was compounded by the following Jilaal season recording higher-than-usual temperatures in 2021. Drought-related displacements characterized internal and external movements from Bakool, continuing into 2022.



# BAY - SOUTH-WEST STATE



DISTRICTS	IDPs	RETURNEES	HOST COMMUNITY
BAYDHABA	731,492	-	-
BUUR HAKABA	3,114	-	-
DIINSOOR	12,180	-	-
QANSAX DHEERE	27,588	-	-

## CONTEXT

Bay region is located in the south of Somalia in the South West state. It is landlocked and covers large parts of Somalia's inter-riverine region between the Juba and Shabelle rivers. Its capital is Baidoa which also serves as the economic hub of southwestern Somalia. Bay region is of strategic and commercial importance for the country as the main road linking Mogadishu, Baidoa, Gedo, and the Kenyan border runs through the region. Together with Bakool, Bay is often considered the breadbasket of Somalia, with fertile lands producing over 80 per cent of the Sorghum consumed domestically, as well as rich pastures for rearing livestock.<sup>2</sup> However, Bay region has historically also experienced droughts, resulting in devastating famines, most notably in 1991-92 and in 2011. This is driven both by climate change but also by prevailing insecurity, in particular in rural areas.<sup>3</sup> On-going armed conflict between Al-Shabaab and both state and federal security forces continue to shape dynamics in Bay.

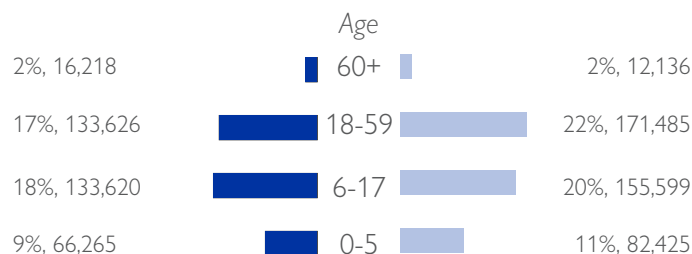
<sup>1</sup> Due to inaccessibility in March 2023, Bardhere figures were collected in February 2024.  
<sup>2</sup> Rift Valley Institute, *Bay and Bakool: How Somalia's Breadbasket Turned Into an Epicenter of Humanitarian Crisis*, 2023.  
<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE (IDPs ONLY)

The majority of displaced people (54%) were female, with 46 per cent male. While most IDPs were children (57%), over a third of displaced persons (39%) were of working age, and 4 per cent were 60 or older.



Figure 5: Max. estimate of IDPs by sex and age group<sup>11</sup>



## HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

The majority of households (HHs) were made up of members from the host community (57%, 171,181 HHs), with the remainder composed of IDPs (43%).

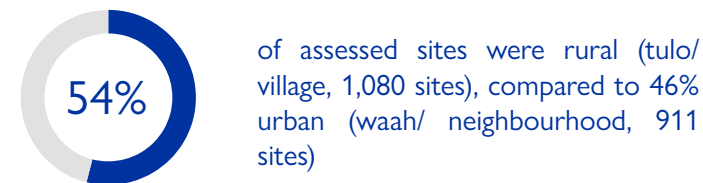
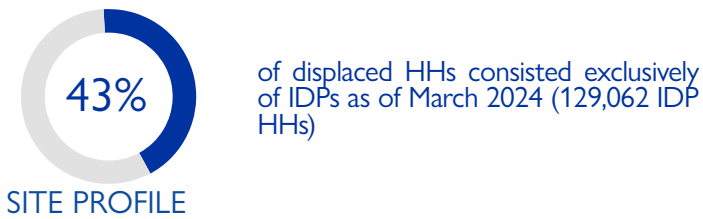
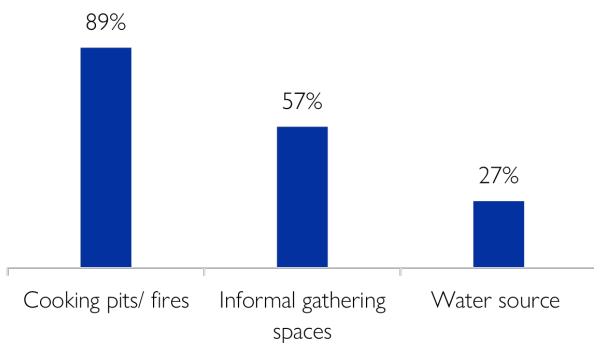
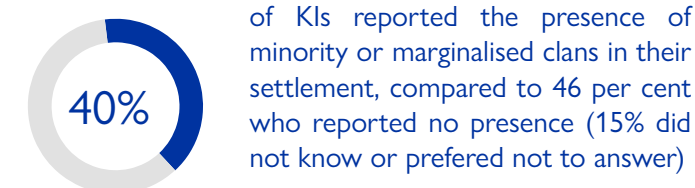


Figure 6: Share of settlements with the observed presence of assessed utilities (N=816)\*



KIs reported the majority of assessed sites as accessible to humanitarian partners (51%, 1,007 sites). However, nearly half of assessed sites were inaccessible (47%, 938), with the remaining sites partially accessible, with some obstructions present (2%, 46). These sites were primarily inaccessible due to the presence of Al-Shabaab in the region (19%, 378), alongside movement restrictions in the area (18%, 354). Notably, KIs in Buur Hakaba district reported the presence physical obstacles, such as damaged roads and bridges (5%, 108).

## VULNERABILITIES



## DISPLACEMENT TRIGGERS

Nearly two thirds of IDPs in Bay region were displaced as a result of natural disasters (60%). Over half of these displacements were attributed to droughts (53%), with 6 per cent of IDPs displaced as a result of flooding. The share of those displaced due to natural disasters increased by 9 percentage points since 2023 (51% in March 2023). Other causes of displacement included conflict (35%), a lack of services and assistance (2%) and livelihoods (2%), forced evictions (1%), and fears related to health outbreaks such as COVID-19 (less than 1%).

## DISPLACEMENT TIMELINE

Figure 7: Regions of origin (% of largest IDP group)

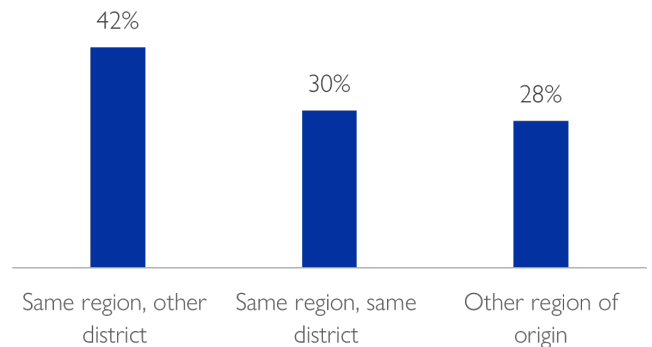
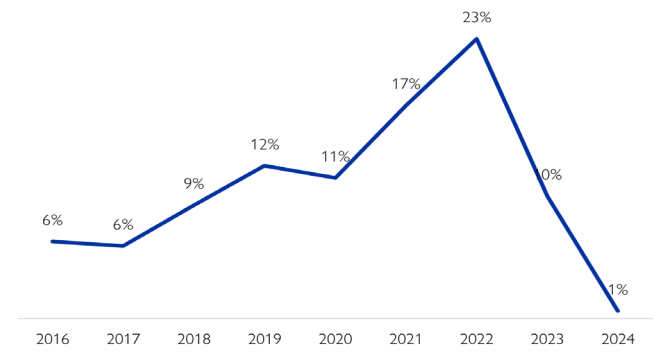


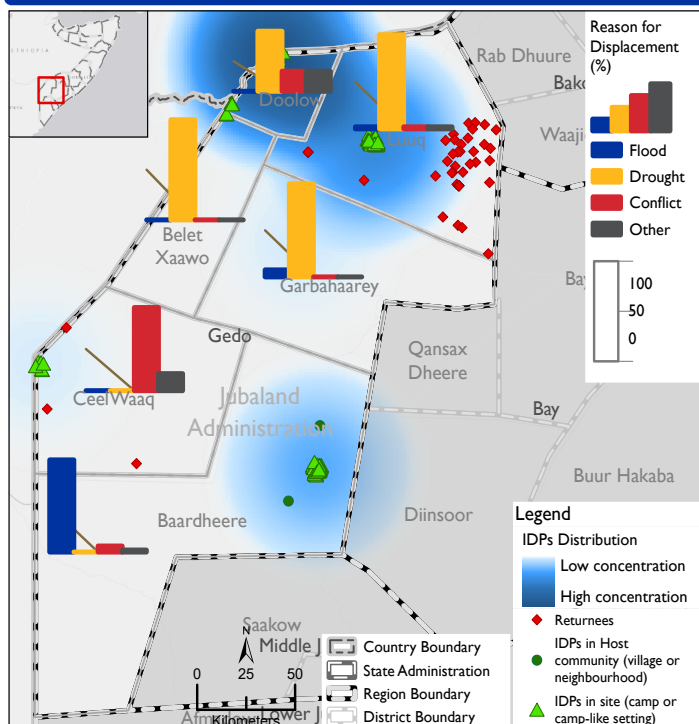
Figure 8: Timeline of first IDP arrivals across assessed settlements in the region (N=810)



2022 marked a significant increase in arrivals in the Bay region, a trend first observed in July 2022, when Bay received 40 per cent of new arrivals (2% in June 2022). As a consequence of the dire start of 2022, famine was predicted in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts during the final quarter of 2022, prevented only due to the successful scale-up in humanitarian assistance. Despite successful efforts in preventing famine, during 2022 the Bay region faced mass displacement and increased health concerns, accounting for 23 per cent of measles cases (3,738 cases) in the country (UNICEF, SitRep 12).



# GEDO - JUBALAND



**237,138**  
IDPS

**2,400**  
RETURNEES

**868**  
SETTLEMENTS COVERED

Primary reasons of displacement

**79%**  
NATURAL DISASTER

**11%**  
CONFLICT

DISTRICTS	IDPs	RETURNEES	HOST COMMUNITY
BAARDHEERE	36,588	-	172,535
BELET XAAWO	1,698	-	52,914
CEEL WAAQ	6,876	738	47,214
DOOLOW	124,062	-	37,458
GARBAHAAREY	7,350	-	52,224
LUUQ	60,564	1,662	111,416

## CONTEXT

Gedo is Somalia's second largest region by territorial size, located in the country's southwest corner and bordering Kenya and Ethiopia.<sup>1</sup> The region typically experiences arid to semi-arid climatic conditions, marked by infrequent rainfall and sparse vegetation. Although the Juba River flows through Gedo, the region is often impacted by water-scarcity, especially in non-riverine locations, which constitute a vast majority of the territory. While prone to droughts, riverine flooding and flash flooding can also occur, causing damage and destruction to both urban centres and pastoral livelihoods in rural areas. Gedo region has a significant Al-Shabaab presence.<sup>2</sup> In addition, power-sharing disputes between Gedo politicians and the Jubaland administration in Kismayo has contributed to a volatile security and political situation.<sup>3</sup> The combination of these factors impacts displacement trends in the region, cross-region, including neighboring Ethiopia.

<sup>1</sup> European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), Country Guidance Somalia: Gedo, August 2023

<sup>2</sup> GIST, Understanding the key drivers of displacement during the 2021/22 drought, 2022

<sup>3</sup> ACLED, Somalia: Counter-Insurgency Operation Gains Regional Support in Phase Two as al-Shabaab Attacks and Political Differences Persist, April 2023

The majority of displaced people (53%) were female, with 47 per cent male. While most IDPs were children (57%), over a third of displaced persons (40%) were of working age, and 2 per cent were 60 or older.

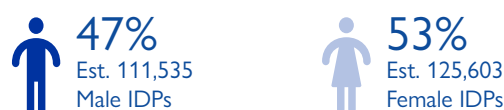
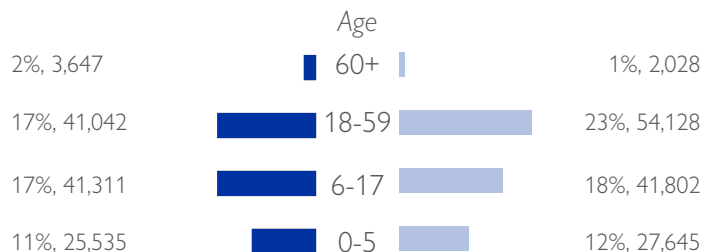
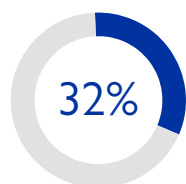


Figure 9: Max. estimate of IDPs by sex and age group<sup>11</sup>



## HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

The majority of households (HHs) were made up of members from the host community (66%, 78,960 HHs), with the remainder composed of IDPs (32%) and less than 1 per cent composed exclusively of returnees (400 HHs).

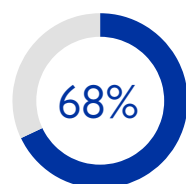


of displaced HHs consisted exclusively of IDPs as of March 2024 (39,523 IDP HHs)

## SITE PROFILE

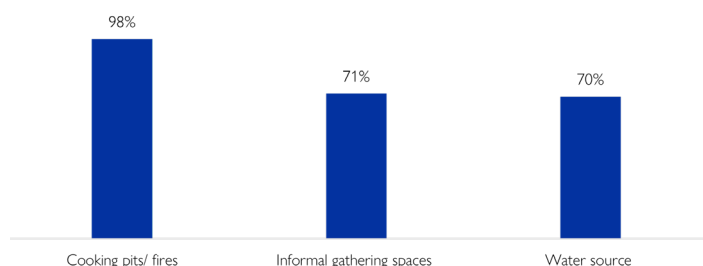


868 SITES ASSESSED  
41,008 SHELTERS



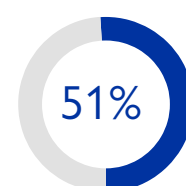
of assessed sites were rural (tulo/village, 594 sites), compared to 32% urban (waah/ neighbourhood, 274 sites)

Figure 10: Share of settlements with the observed presence of assessed utilities (N=142)\*



KIs reported the greatest share of assessed sites as inaccessible to humanitarian partners (49%, 423 sites). These sites were primarily inaccessible due to the presence of Al-Shabaab in the region (37%, 37), alongside physical barriers such as damage to roads, and the denial of the existence of humanitarian needs or of entitlements to services (10% each, 87 and 85 sites respectively). Just over a third of assessed sites were fully accessible (34%, 291), with the remaining sites partially accessible, with some obstructions present (18%, 154).

## VULNERABILITIES



of KIs reported the presence of minority or marginalised clans in their settlement, compared to 47 per cent who reported no presence (2% did not know or preferred not to answer)

## DISPLACEMENT TRIGGERS

Notably, a greater share of IDPs were displaced as a result of natural disaster since the previous round (53% in March 2023, compared to 79% in March 2024). When specifying the type of natural disaster, 65 per cent of respondents recalled drought, with 14 per cent citing floods (recorded in Baardheere, Garbahaarey and Luuq districts). Other causes of displacement included a lack of livelihoods (9%), and a lack of services or assistance in the settlement (1%). Notably, those reporting a lack of services as their primary cause for displacement decreased from 12 per cent to 1 per cent in the space of one year.

## DISPLACEMENT TIMELINE

Figure 11: Regions of origin (% of largest IDP group)

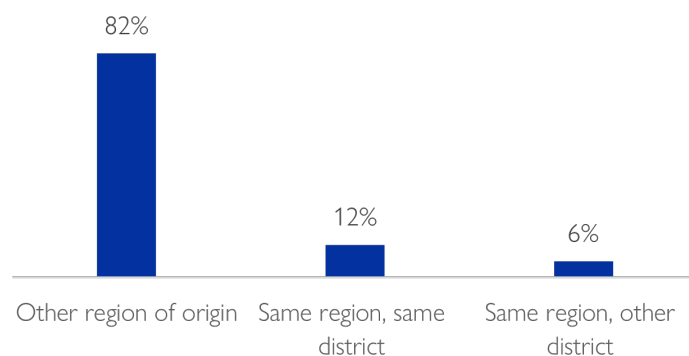
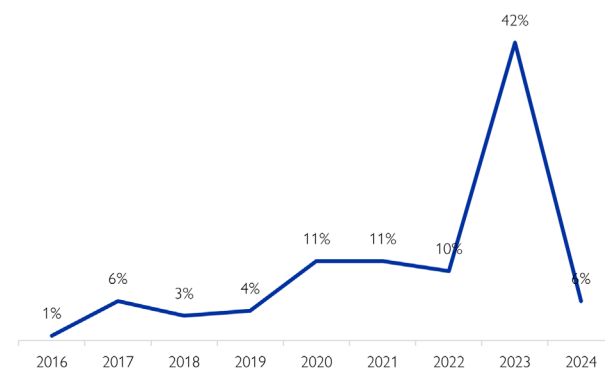


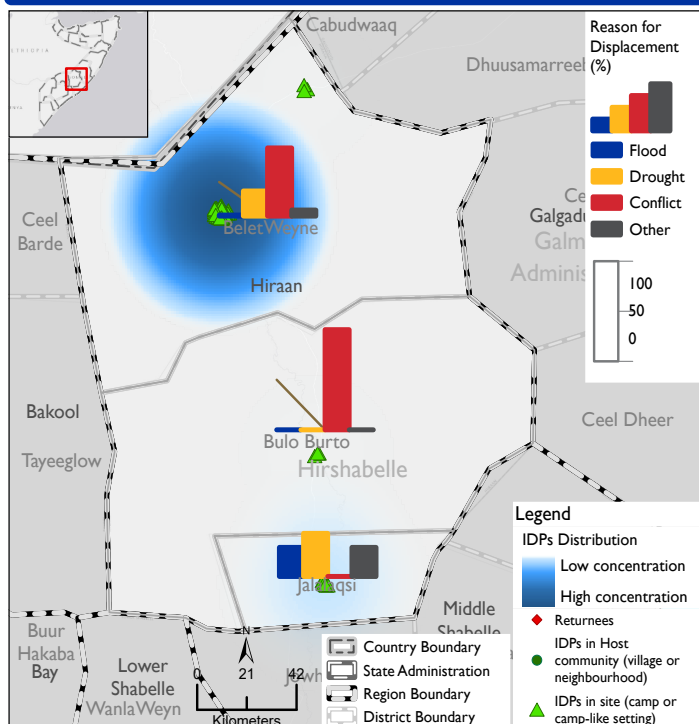
Figure 12: Timeline of first IDP arrivals across assessed settlements in the region (N=143)



Increased flooding in 2023 caused significant displacement within and around Gedo region, with heavy rainfall in November 2023 stretching across Gedo and the Ethiopian highlands. An estimated 4,000 hectares of farmland were flooded in the region, affecting upwards of 6,000 farmers in Gedo. The start of 2024 has shown a slow recovery in the agricultural sector of Gedo, with the destruction of farmlands compounded by poor financial means of recovery due to the loss of harvest at the end of 2023.



# HIRAAN - HIRSHABELLE



**108,517**  
IDPS

**-**  
RETURNEES

**522**  
SETTLEMENTS COVERED

Primary reasons of displacement

**64%**  
CONFLICT

**32%**  
NATURAL DISASTER

DISTRICTS	IDPs	RETURNEES	HOST COMMUNITY
BELET WEYNE	100,561	-	277,771
BULO BURTO	1,080	-	146,709
JALALAQSI	6,876	-	56,468

## CONTEXT

The Hiraan region is located in central Somalia and is bordered by the Somali Ethiopian region to the west. The region is characterized by an arid to semi-arid climate and receives limited rainfall. At the same time, low-lying areas near the Shabelle river are often prone to flooding following heavy rainfall. Consequently, both floods and droughts have historically affected the region and forced people to leave their homes. Hiraan region has a significant Al-Shabaab presence and conflict linked to the group has increased significantly since 2022. As the intensity of the 2022-2023 drought increased, Al-Shabaab restricted humanitarian aid and increased taxation on local populations during a time of significant economic hardship.<sup>1</sup> Hiraan local clan militias fought back and were bolstered by the deployment of government armed forces and international forces. As a result, the clan militias were able to recapture key territories in Hiraan from al-Shabaab.<sup>2</sup> Al-Shabaab retaliated violently with incidents of attacks against civilians increasing 366% compared to the previously year in Hiraan.<sup>3</sup>

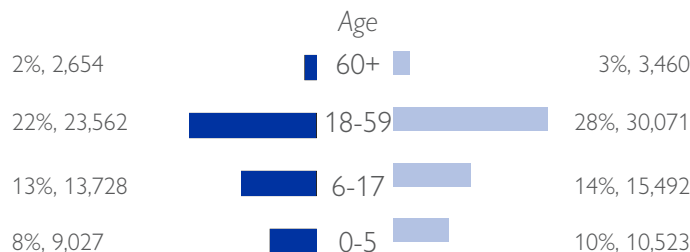
<sup>1</sup> Brookings (Vanda Felbab-Brown), *Somalia's challenges in 2023*, January 2023  
<sup>2</sup> ACLED, Somalia: *Al-Shabaab Regains Lost Territories as Tax Dispute Halts Counter-Insurgency Operation*, June 2023  
<sup>3</sup> ACLED, *Heightened Political Violence in Somalia*, March 2023

## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE (IDPs ONLY)

The majority of displaced people (55%) were female, with 45 per cent male. While most IDPs were of working age (49%), a significant share were children (47%), and 16 per cent were 60 or older.



Figure 13: Max. estimate of IDPs by sex and age group<sup>11</sup>



## HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

The majority of households (HHs) were made up of members from the host community (82%, 80,157 HHs), with the remainder composed of IDPs (18%).

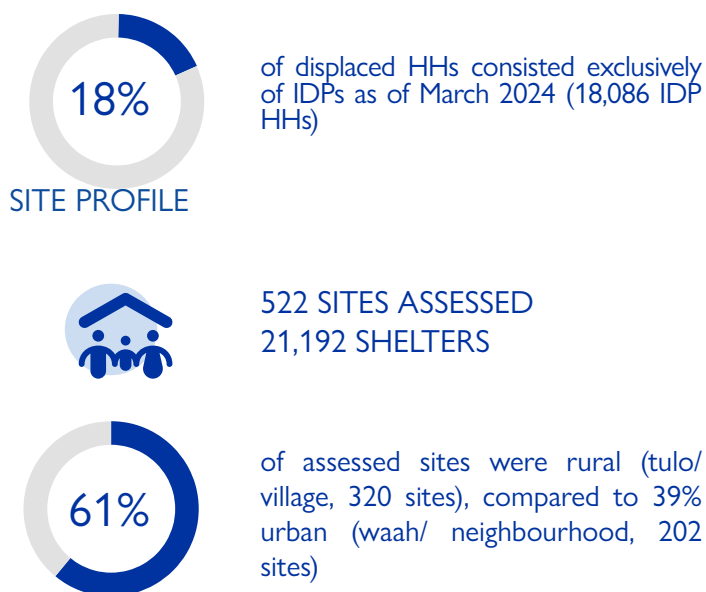
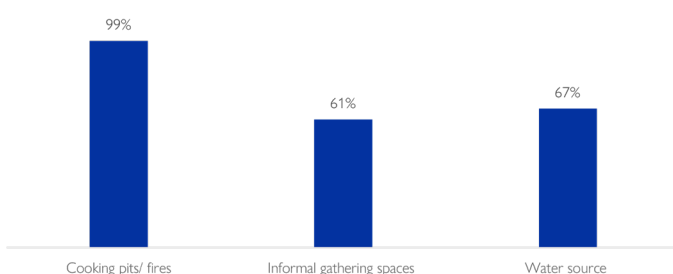
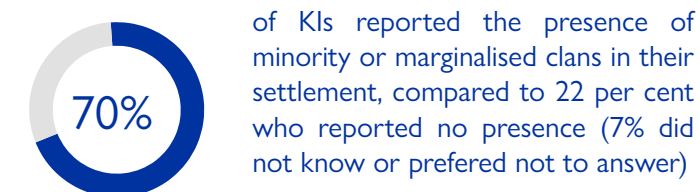


Figure 14: Share of settlements with the observed presence of assessed utilities (N=135)\*



KIs reported the majority of assessed sites as accessible to humanitarian partners (69%, 358 sites). A fifth of assessed sites were inaccessible (20%, 110), primarily due to the presence of Al-Shabaab forces (15%, 78). The remaining sites were partially accessible, with some obstructions present (10%, 54).

## VULNERABILITIES



## DISPLACEMENT TRIGGERS

Consistent with previous findings, conflict remained the primary cause for displacement in the Hiraan region (62%, 58% in March 2023). Conflict was reported as the primary reason for displacement double that of the second most-reported reason, natural disaster (32%). Drought accounted for a significant share of those reporting natural disasters (31%), with flooding accounting for a minimal 1 per cent. Despite the relatively low share of respondents reporting drought compared to conflict, it is significant to note that drought was reported nearly eight times more than the previous year (4% in March 2023). Other causes of displacement included a lack of livelihoods (2%), desert locusts (2%), and a lack of services or assistance (less than 1%).

## DISPLACEMENT TIMELINE

Figure 15: Regions of origin (% of largest IDP group)

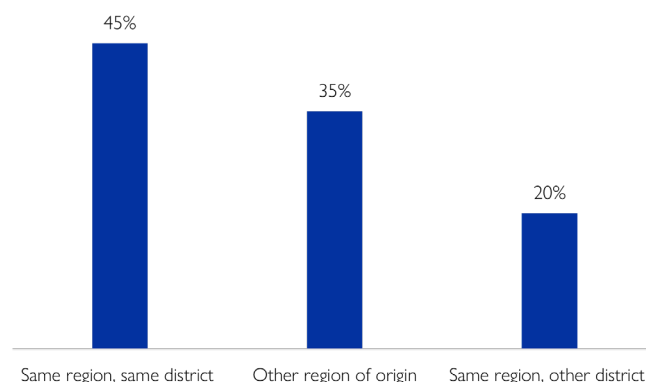
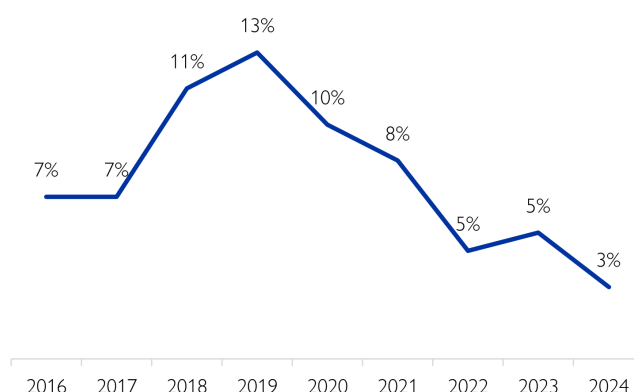
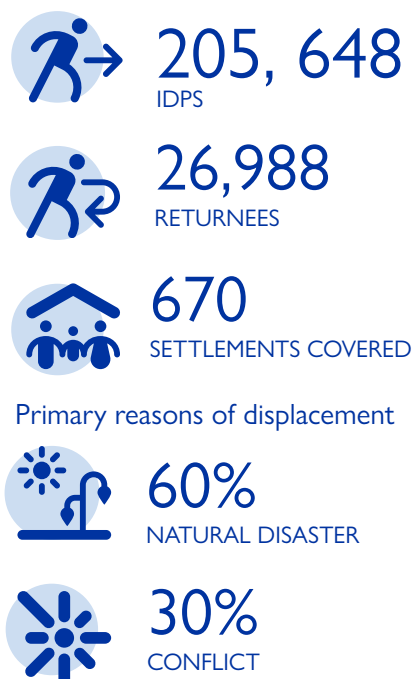
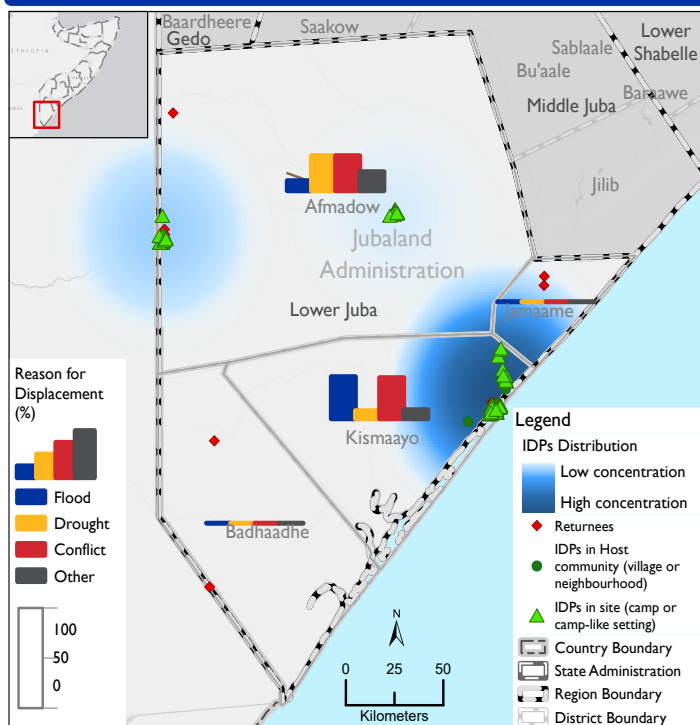


Figure 16: Timeline of first IDP arrivals across assessed settlements in the region



The reported peak in IDP first arrivals occurring in 2019 can be attributed to the upsurge in clan violence and general insecurity in the region related to Al-Shabaab, further compounded by flooding in the region. UNHCR reported increases in the recruitment of child soldiers by insurgents, particularly Belet Weyne district.

# LOWER JUBA- JUBALAND



DISTRICTS	IDPs	RETURNEES	HOST COMMUNITY
AFMADOW	36,214	1,428	210,153
BADHAADHE	-	90	40,632
JAMAAME	-	600	60,088
KISMAAYO	169,434	24,870	315,318

## CONTEXT

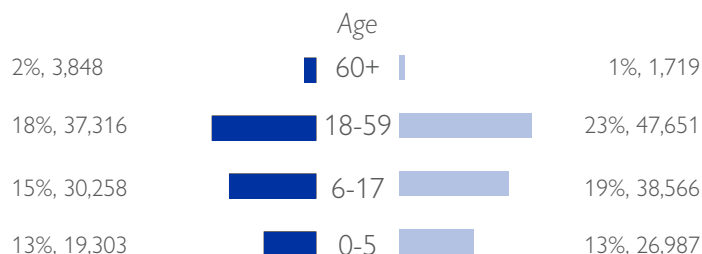
Lower Juba is part of the Somali Federal State of Jubaland. It is the country's most southern region, bordered by Kenya to the south and west, Gedo and Middle Juba regions to the north, and the Indian Ocean to the east. Its capital is the sprawling coastal city of Kismaayo, one of the most diverse cities in Somalia and an important economic hub due to its large port. The region is named for the Juba River which flows through it and is one of the most important watercourses of the country. Fishing is the dominant economic activity in the coastal stretches of Lower Juba, while pastoralism and agriculture prevail further inland. Jamame district, on the border with Kenya, also plays a crucial role on cross-border trade and security. The strategic importance of Kismaayo has provoked clashes between clan militias, insurgent groups like Al-Shabaab, and Somali government forces. Furthermore, historical marginalization and political tensions in the region have contributed to conflicts over land, resources, and power. In addition, seasonal flooding of the Juba river has been a significant trigger for population movements due to the destruction of houses, infrastructure, and agricultural lands, particularly in the Jamame district.

## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE (IDPs ONLY)

The majority of displaced people (56%) were female, with 44 per cent male. While most IDPs were children (56%), over a third of displaced persons (41%) were of working age, and 3 per cent were 60 or older.



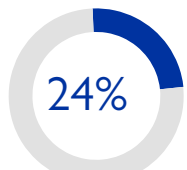
Figure 17: Max. estimate of IDPs by sex and age group<sup>11</sup>





## HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

The majority of households (HHs) were made up of members from the host community (73%, 104,424 HHs), with the remainder composed of IDPs (24%) and less than 1 per cent composed exclusively of returnees (4,548 HHs).

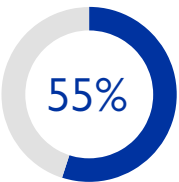


24% of displaced HHs consisted exclusively of IDPs as of March 2024 (34,275 IDP HHs)

### SITE PROFILE

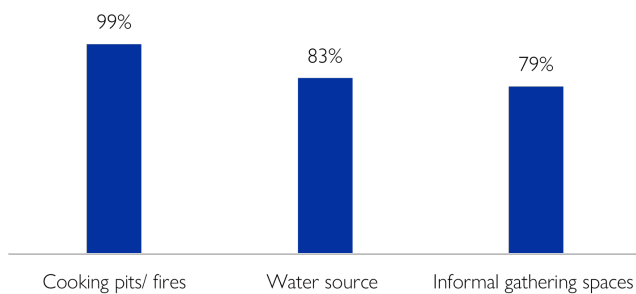


670 SITES ASSESSED  
38,553 SHELTERS



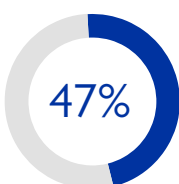
55% of assessed sites were rural (tulo/village, 371 sites), compared to 45% urban (waah/ neighbourhood, 299 sites)

Figure 18: Share of settlements with the observed presence of assessed utilities (N=205)\*



KIs reported the majority of assessed sites as accessible to humanitarian partners (52%, 351 sites). Over a third of assessed sites were inaccessible (38%, 254). Over a quarter of these sites were inaccessible due to the presence of Al-Shabaab (26%, 172). The presence of mines and UXOs alongside physical damage to roads and bridges also hindered accessibility (6% each, 43 and 38, respectively). The remaining sites partially accessible, with some obstructions present (10%, 65).

## VULNERABILITIES



47% of KIs reported the presence of minority or marginalised clans in their settlement, compared to 45 per cent who reported no presence (8% did not know or preferred not to answer)

## DISPLACEMENT TRIGGERS

Notably, over three times the share of IDPs were displaced as a result of natural disaster since the previous round (19% in March 2023, compared to 60% in March 2024). When specifying the type of natural disaster, 11 per cent of respondents recalled flooding, with 4 per cent citing floods. Other causes of displacement included a lack of livelihoods (7%), a lack of services or assistance in the settlement (2%), and forced evictions (1%).

## DISPLACEMENT TIMELINE

Figure 19: Regions of origin (% of largest IDP group)

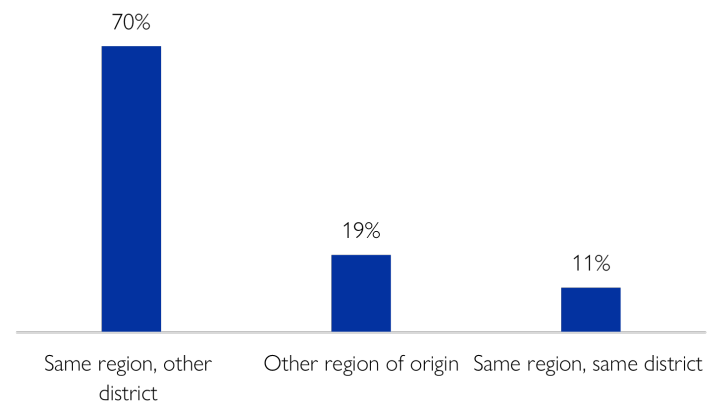
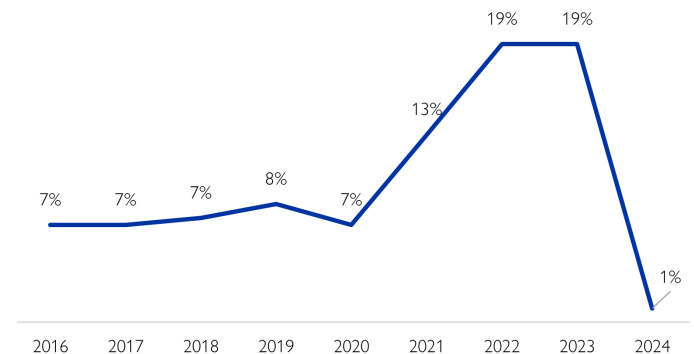
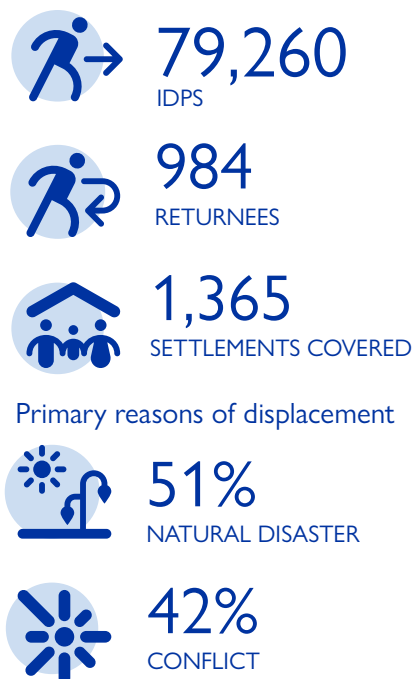
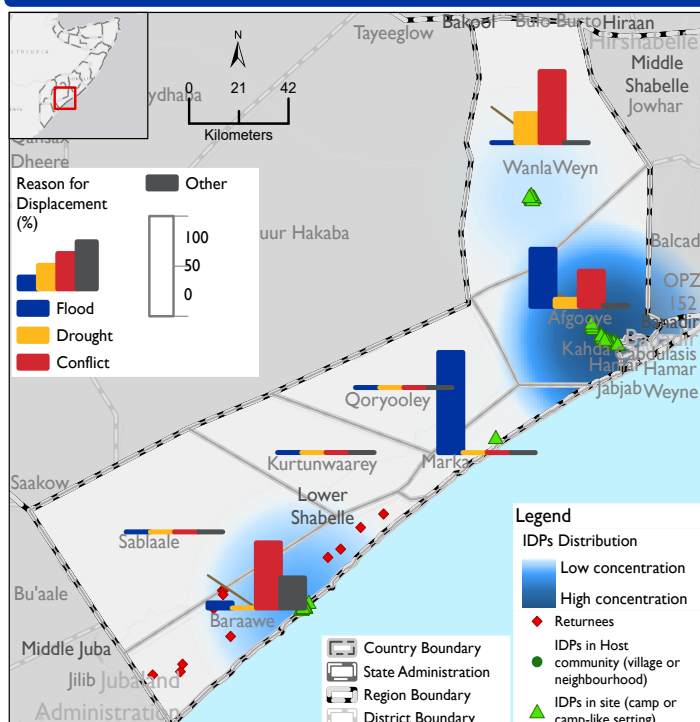


Figure 20: Timeline of first IDP arrivals across assessed settlements in the region



Lower Juba saw poor rainfall and harsh drought periods across 2022 and 2023, felt especially in Jamaame district. The reliance on pastoral incomes heightened the impact of drought in Jamaame, further compounded by the presence of Al-Shabaab along the roads between Kismaayo and Kenya, monitoring movements and ensuring compliance with enforced taxation.

# LOWER SHABELLE - SOUTH-WEST STATE



DISTRICTS	IDPs	RETURNEES	HOST COMMUNITY
AFGOOYE	57,084	-	283,224
BARAAWE	17,238	984	38,922
MARKA	720	-	114,560
QORYOOLEY	-	-	144,344
WANLA WEYN	4,218	-	173,832

## CONTEXT

Lower Shabelle region is located in southern Somalia in the South West state. It borders the Indian Ocean and sits just to the south of the capital Mogadishu. Its administrative and largest city is the historic port city of Marka. The region is named after the Shabelle river, the most important water body in the region. Originating in the Ethiopian highlands, the river is vital for irrigation and supports agricultural activities in the area.

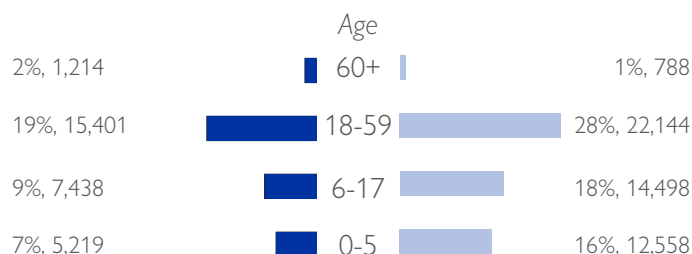
Lower Shabelle is Somalia's most productive irrigated agricultural zone and of immense strategic importance. However, the region is also among the most affected by the Al-Shabaab insurgency and thus highly militarised, with a strong presence of various armed forces. Fighting is ongoing as many parts of Lower Shabelle, in particular in rural areas, are contested. This continues to drive the displacement of a substantial amount of people who then seek security and emergency assistance in IDP sites.

## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE (IDPs ONLY)

The majority of displaced people (63%) were female, with 37 per cent male. While half IDPs were children (50%), nearly an equal share displaced persons (47%) were of working age, and 3 per cent were 60 or older.

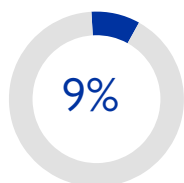


Figure 21: Max. estimate of IDPs by sex and age group



## HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

The majority of households (HHs) were made up of members from the host community (90%, 125,813 HHs), with the remainder composed of IDPs (9%) and less than 1 per cent composed exclusively of returnees (164 HHs).

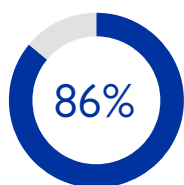


9% of displaced HHs consisted exclusively of IDPs as of March 2024 (13,210 IDP HHs)

## SITE PROFILE

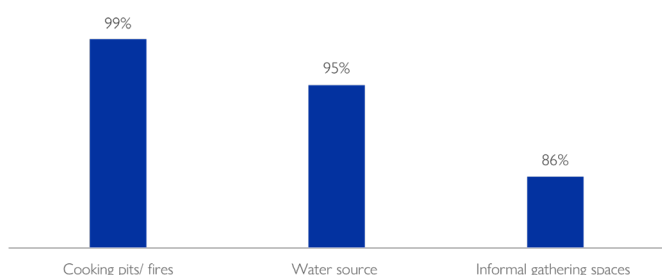


1,365 SITES ASSESSED  
12,218 SHELTERS



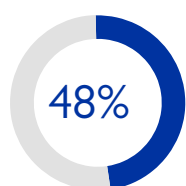
86% of assessed sites were rural (tulo/village, 1,179 sites), compared to 14% urban (waah/ neighbourhood, 186 sites)

Figure 22: Share of settlements with the observed presence of assessed utilities (N=96)\*



KIs reported the greatest share of assessed sites as inaccessible to humanitarian partners (47%, 639 sites). These sites were primarily inaccessible due to the presence of Al-Shabaab (47%, 642), alongside interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities (8%, 111). Physical damage to roads and bridges (5%, 70) and clan conflict (4%, 56) were also commonly report obstacles. Nearly a third of assessed sites were fully accessible (28%, 380), with a quarter of sites partially accessible, with some obstructions present (25%, 346).

## VULNERABILITIES



48% of KIs reported the presence of minority or marginalised clans in their settlement, compared to 37 per cent who reported no presence (15% did not know or preferred not to answer)

## DISPLACEMENT TRIGGERS

Notably, a significantly greater share of IDPs were displaced as a result of natural disasters since the previous round (8% in March 2023, compared to 51% in March 2024). Thus, natural disaster has replaced conflict as the primary reported cause for displacement, with conflict triggering less than half of displacements (42%), compared to over two-thirds in 2023 (69%). Other causes of displacement included a lack of livelihoods (7%), halving as the primary cause of displacement since the previous round (14% in March 2023).

## DISPLACEMENT TIMELINE

Figure 23: Regions of origin (% of largest IDP group)

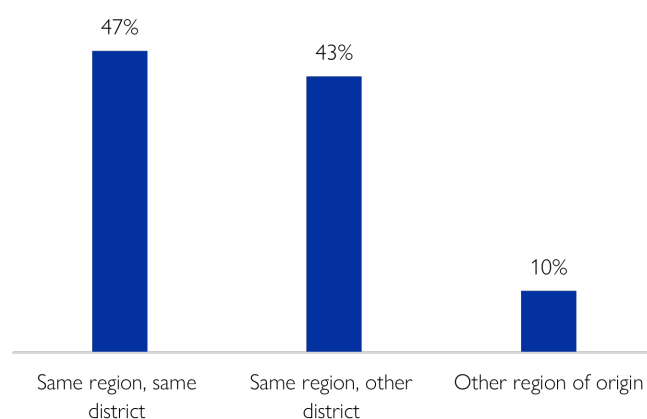
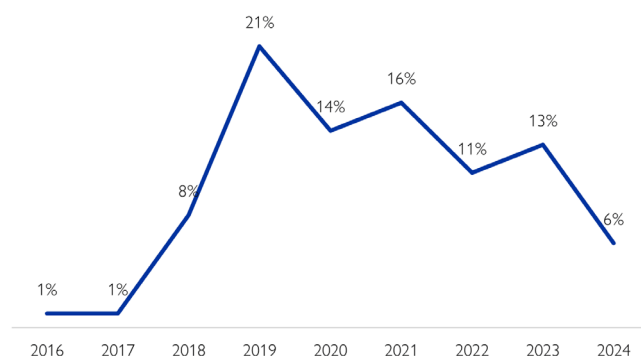


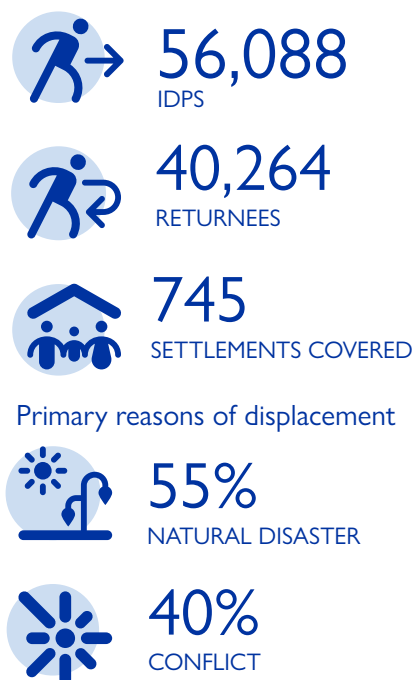
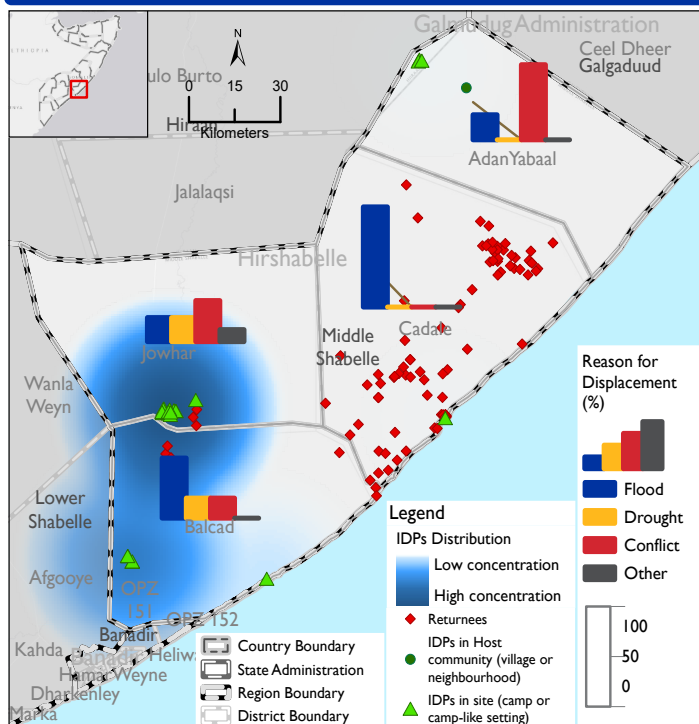
Figure 24: Timeline of first IDP arrivals across assessed settlements in the region



The reported peak in IDP first arrivals occurring in 2019 can be attributed to the upsurge in violence from the government, allied security forces, and Al-Shabaab in the region, relating to land disputes and roadblocks. 2019 also witnessed the increase in air strikes across Lower Shabelle, driving people from their area of origin to relatively safer locations.



# MIDDLE SHABELLE- HIRSHABELLE



DISTRICTS	IDPs	RETURNÉES	HOST COMMUNITY
ADAN YABAAL	696	-	88,416
BALCAD	21,224	10,206	462,884
CADALE	504	26,220	119,688
JOWHAR	33,664	3,838	489,709

## CONTEXT

Middle Shabelle region is located in southern Somalia. It borders the Indian Ocean and sits just to the north of the capital Mogadishu. Together with Hiraan, it forms the Hirshabelle state. The region is named for the Shabelle river, the most important water body in the region.

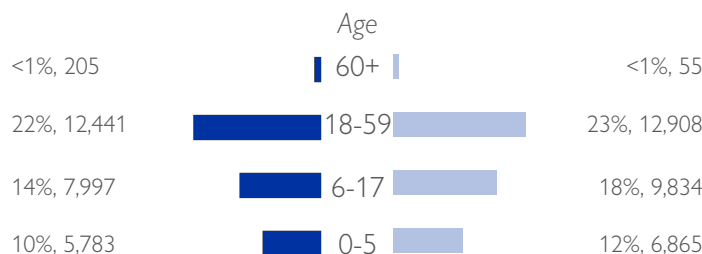
Originating in the Ethiopian highlands, the river is vital for irrigation and supports agricultural activities in the area. Expansive riverine plains, and a tropical climate with distinct dry and wet seasons make Middle Shabelle one of the most fertile regions of the country. However, periodic flooding commonly occurs along the Shabelle river, which can cause significant damage to infrastructure and lead to the loss of crops as well as displacement. This is exacerbated by insecurity and occasional fighting between Al-Shabaab, the Somali National Army, and Somali security forces.

## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE (IDPs ONLY)

The majority of displaced people (53%) were female, with 47 per cent male. While most IDPs were children (54%), nearly a half of displaced persons (45%) were of working age, and less than 1 per cent were 60 or older.

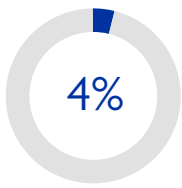


Figure 25: Max. estimate of IDPs by sex and age group<sup>11</sup>



## HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

The majority of households (HHs) were made up of members from the host community (92%, 193,451 HHs), with the remainder composed of IDPs (4%) and 3 per cent composed exclusively of returnees (6,711 HHs).

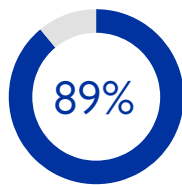


of displaced HHs consisted exclusively of IDPs as of March 2024 (9,348 IDP HHs)

## SITE PROFILE

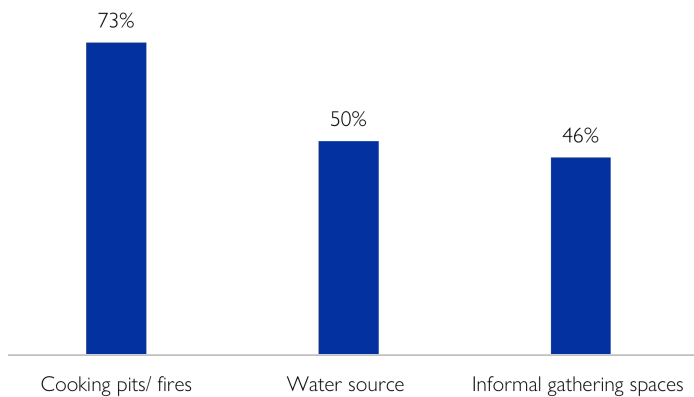


745 SITES ASSESSED  
9,971 SHELTERS



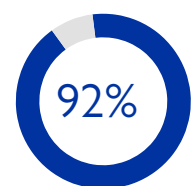
of assessed sites were rural (tulo/village, 662 sites), compared to 11% urban (waah/ neighbourhood, 83 sites)

Figure 26: Share of settlements with the observed presence of assessed utilities (N=26)\*



KIs reported the majority of assessed sites as accessible to humanitarian partners (68%, 505 sites). A quarter of assessed sites were inaccessible (25%, 185), with the remaining sites partially accessible, with some obstructions present (7%, 55). These sites were primarily inaccessible due to the presence of Al-Shabaab in the region (10%, 78) and clan conflict (9%, 68). A further 6 per cent of respondents (48) reported that military operations and on-going hostilities were impeding access to the site.

## VULNERABILITIES



of KIs reported the presence of minority or marginalised clans in their settlement, compared to 5 per cent who reported no presence (3% did not know or preferred not to answer)

## DISPLACEMENT TRIGGERS

A significant increase was recorded in the share of IDPs displaced as a result of natural disaster since the previous round (6% in March 2023, compared to 40% in March 2024). When specifying the type of natural disaster, 37 per cent of respondents recalled flooding, with 18 per cent reporting droughts. Other causes of displacement included conflict (40%), a lack of livelihoods (3%) and desert locusts (2%).

## DISPLACEMENT TIMELINE

Figure 27: Regions of origin (% of largest IDP group)

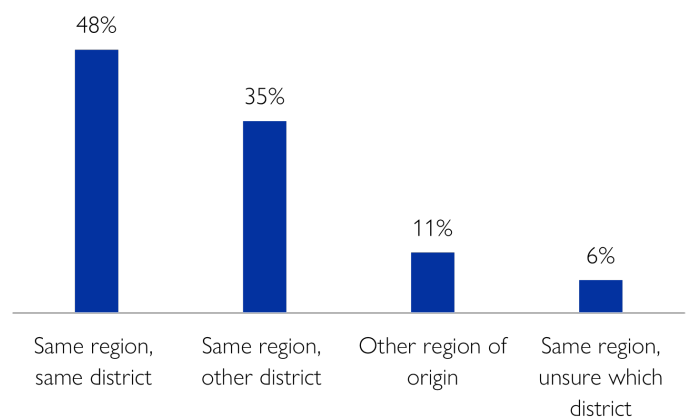
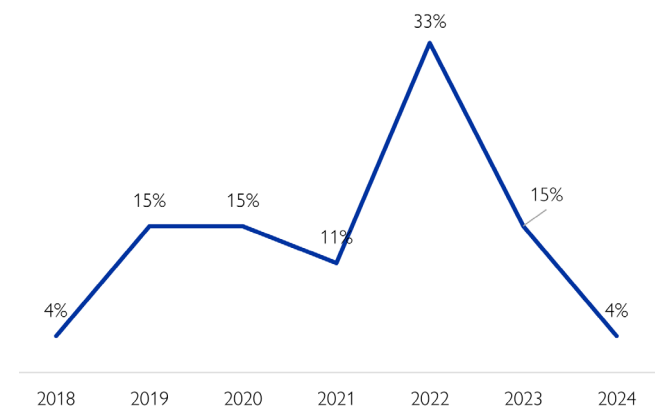


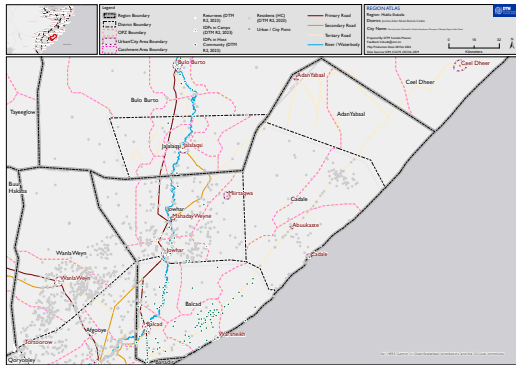
Figure 28: Timeline of first IDP arrivals across assessed settlements in the region



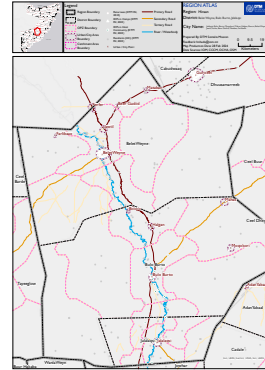
Middle Shabelle region suffered a series of attacks in 2022 related to clan violence and Al-Shabaab activities. From the second half of 2021 to the end of 2022, clashes between clan-based forces and with Al-Shabaab increased across the region, resulting in bomb and artillery attacks against military personnel, civilians and rival clans. In Cadale district, the end of 2021 saw an upsurge in inter-clan violence, with the death of an elder in November alongside violence related to the July and August 2021 parliamentary elections. Other security incidents were reported across the region, with the targeting of military checkpoints by Al-Shabaab.

# ANNEX: LINKS TO REGIONAL ATLAS

## HIRSHABELLE

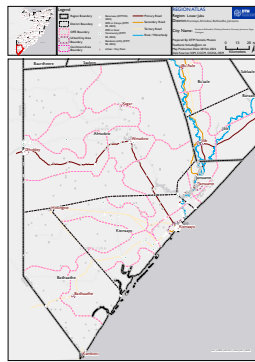


Middle-Shabelle Map

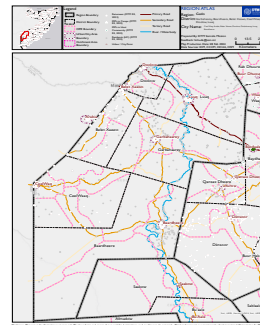


Hiraan Map

## JUBALAND

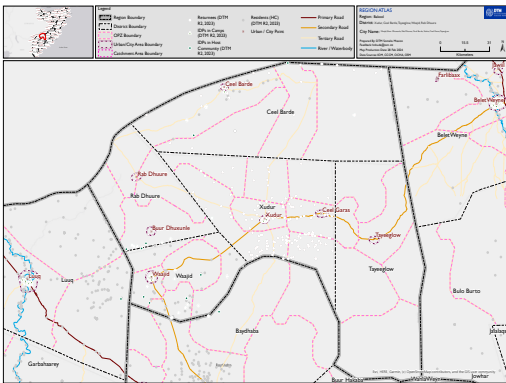


Lower Juba Map

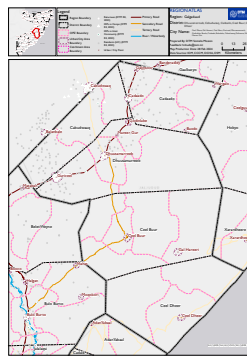


Gedo Map

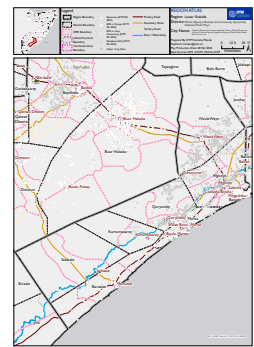
## SOUTH-WEST STATE



Bakool Map



Bay Map



Lower-Shabelle Map





 [www.dtm.iom.int](http://www.dtm.iom.int)  
 [dtmsomalia@iom.int](mailto:dtmsomalia@iom.int)

 Nairobi Support Office | Ngecha Rd, off Lower Kabete Road, Nairobi, Kenya

FOLLOW US:  
 

### Citation

The following citation is required when using any data and information included in this information product: "International Organization for Migration (IOM), June 2024. DTM Baseline Assessment Report Round 3. IOM Somalia." For more information on terms and conditions of DTM information products, please refer to: <https://dtm.iom.int/terms-and-conditions>.

