

IOM SOMALIA

# GALMUDUG DISTRICT PROFILING

SEPTEMBER 2023

ANALYSIS BRIEF

An assessment to understand the conditions, needs and vulnerabilities of households in Galmudug State in Somalia



GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE  
DISPLACEMENT  
TRACKING MATRIX





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**
- **ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW**
  - Objectives
  - Assessment themes
  - Geographical coverage (map)
- **METHODOLOGY**
  - Tool design
  - Sampling
  - Data analysis and presentation
  - Limitations
  - Data collection teams
  - Access
  - Navigation to households
- **ASSESSMENT FINDINGS**
  - Household characteristics
  - Mobility status
  - Shelter
  - Education
  - Livelihoods
  - Market analysis (business ownership)
  - Pastoralism and crop farming
  - Food
  - Environmental degradation and adaptation
  - Services
  - Water
  - Social cohesion and safety
  - Information sources
  - Movement intentions
- **CONCLUSION**
  - Summary of key findings
  - Recommendations for further research



Somalia's Galmudug state lies north of the country's capital of Mogadishu and south of Puntland state, sitting between Ethiopia to the west and the Indian ocean on its east. Since the re-formation of Somalia's federal government in 2012, Galmudug has endured significant conflict, instability and environmental disasters – especially drought. Despite the strengthening of state institutions since the merging of Galgaduud and Mudug regions in 2015, communities across the state continue to experience significant vulnerabilities due to these challenges.<sup>1</sup>

In 2023, the challenges faced by Galmudug have been exacerbated by the worst drought recorded in Somalia for at least forty years.<sup>2</sup> Linked to historical conflict between clans over land, the drought has increased competition between pastoralist communities over depleting sources of water and pasture. Reflecting the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's conclusion that climate change risks having a 'multiplier effect' on armed conflict, the drought has exacerbated Galmudug households' poor access to security and livelihoods – in many cases forcing people to flee from their homes in search of emergency assistance.<sup>3</sup>

Between March and May 2023, DTM Somalia implemented this Galmudug District Profiling household assessment, to inform strategy and programming that seeks to address the climate-conflict cycle across the state. It aims to do this by strengthening the evidence base on the conditions, needs and vulnerabilities of households in Galmudug state – including how they vary geographically and according to mobility status: permanent residents, internally displaced persons

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<sup>1</sup> Berghof Foundation (2019). Conflict Assessment, Galmudug State: An Analysis of Local Perspectives. See:

<https://berghof-foundation.org/library/conflict-assessment-galmudug-state-an-analysis-of-local-perspectives>

<sup>2</sup> IOM (2023). Global Crisis Response Platform: Working Across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. See:

<https://crisisresponse.iom.int/response/east-and-horn-africa-regional-drought-response-2023>

<sup>3</sup> United Nations (2019). Climate change recognized as 'threat multiplier', UN Security Council debates its impact on peace. See:

<https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/fr/news/climate-change-recognized-%E2%80%98threat-multiplier%E2%80%99-un-security-council-debates-its-impact-peace>



(IDPs), returnees, and nomadic pastoralists. Comparative analysis of vulnerabilities between female- versus male-headed households is also presented in this report.

The assessment used a quantitative household tool that produced indicative data, including a range of indicators related to livelihoods; food and markets; pastoralism and farming; environmental degradation and adaptation; access to services; water; social cohesion; conflict and security; information sources; and movement intentions. Key findings are presented under each of these thematic areas throughout this report. Some key takeaways from the assessment are detailed below.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

### • VULNERABLE GROUPS

- Findings from this assessment highlight the **acute vulnerability of certain groups – IDPs, returnees, and nomadic pastoralists**. Throughout the climate-conflict cycle, they are more likely than permanent residents to face challenges with accessing livelihoods, water and food.
- **IDPs and returnees are also especially vulnerable to discrimination**. IDPs are also most at risk of conflict or disputes over property or clan issues.
- **Female-headed households are also vulnerable on key indicators – especially livelihoods**; they are likely to receive a lower monthly income than males. **Female-headed household are also more likely to experience discrimination**.

### • A PRESSING NEED FOR DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- Key findings highlight the **pressing need to achieve durable solutions for displacement-affected communities in Galmudug**, including IDPs (composing 21% of all households) and returnees from internal displacement (8%).
- In addition to facing higher risks of poverty and acute shortages of food and water, the **acute vulnerability of IDPs and returnees is also evident in the fluidity of displacement and returns**.

- Almost half (47%) of all IDP households intend to move to another location in the next 12 months, with 33% of returnees also intending to go elsewhere – suggesting their needs are not being met in locations of displacement or return.
  - This demonstrates the need to invest in long-term, sustainable solutions across the state for displacement-affected families – prioritizing development and stabilization programming in areas with solutions potential, achieving greater access to key services and social cohesion. It also emphasizes the need to prevent displacement into the future, especially in rural areas at risk of severe drought and conflict over access to depleting water sources in the face of climate change.
- **RISK OF CONFLICT, SOCIAL COHESION AND DISPLACEMENT IN MUDUG REGION**
  - While Galmudug families generally face a high risk of conflict, those in **Mudug region's** districts of **Gaalkacyo, Cadaado and Hobyo** face some increased security concerns. Households in these districts are **more likely to reside in areas with a presence of *Ma'Wisley* groups** – historically unrelated militia groups who are uniting to reclaim land under the control of non-state armed groups.<sup>4</sup> **While these groups seek to bring peace to the community, their presence highlights the risk of armed conflict where they live.**
  - Households in these three districts are also **more likely to face discrimination when trying to access jobs, health, education, and justice.**
  - In addition, **households in Gaalkacyo and Hobyo are more likely to be IDPs than anywhere else in the state (44% and 31% respectively).** They are also more likely to be returnees from internal displacement (making up 12% in Gaalkacyo, and 18% in Hobyo).

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<sup>4</sup> International Crisis Group (2023). Somalia's Latest Battles Against Al-Shabaab. See:

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/horn-africa/somalia/somalias-latest-battles-against-al-shabaab>

- In addition to the continued presence non-state armed groups in parts of Mudug, **these high social cohesion and security tensions across the region can be traced to inter-clan tensions that were exacerbated after the fall of the federal government in 1991.**
  - The national crisis resulted in the splitting of Mudug region into north and south, falling respectively within the state boundaries of Puntland and Galmudug – leaving the region’s clans with a high degree of skepticism and tension towards each other. Extremist non-state armed groups are also more prevalent in Mudug region.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> More recently, the mobilization of Ma'Wisley groups in Mudug by the federal government to defeat non-state armed groups has led to the liberation of Xaradheere town, located to the south of Hobyo. Refer to: UN Press (2023). Amid Devastating Drought, Ongoing Rights Violations, Somalia Pushes Forward in Fight against Al-Shabaab Terror Group, Security Council Hears. See: <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15208.doc.htm>



Somalia's Galmudug state lies north of the country's capital of Mogadishu and south of Puntland state, sitting between Ethiopia to the west and the Indian ocean on its east. While its state institutions have strengthened since the merging of Galgaduud and Mudug regions in 2015, the Galmudug community has faced persistent conflict and instability. In many cases, this can be traced to historical conflict between clans over land, with successive droughts also exacerbating competition between pastoralist communities over water and pasture. Reflecting the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's conclusion that climate change risks having a 'multiplier effect' on armed conflict, successive droughts engulfing Somalia have affected Galmudug communities' access to security and livelihoods – in many cases forcing people to flee from their homes in search of humanitarian assistance.<sup>6</sup>

Between 2022 and 2023, IOM Somalia along with partners UNEP and SIPRI implemented the *Deegan Bile* initiative, a multi-sectoral programme in support of Galmudug state government's objective to break the climate-conflict cycle.<sup>7</sup> Employing a hybrid approach by leveraging stabilization and environmental expertise, *Deegan Bile* has aimed to reduce environmental-induced displacement and instability in Galmudug by supporting communities to sustain climate-conscious conflict mitigation strategies.<sup>8</sup>

IOM Somalia's DTM unit has supported the programme through assessment and analysis activities, including this Galmudug District Profiling assessment, to strengthen the evidence base on themes relevant to the programme and the challenges faced by the state more widely.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> European Union Council (2020). Conclusions on Climate Diplomacy adopted at the 3742nd meeting of the Council

<sup>7</sup> "Deegan bile" is the Somali term for "building the environment." UNEP is the United Nations Environment Programme, and SIPRI is the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Deegan Bile is supported by the European Union

<sup>8</sup> European Commission (2023). Breaking the climate-conflict cycle: EU-backed initiative revitalises Galmudug. See: [https://fdpi.ec.europa.eu/breaking-climate-conflict-cycle-eu-backed-initiative-revitalises-galmudug-somalia\\_en](https://fdpi.ec.europa.eu/breaking-climate-conflict-cycle-eu-backed-initiative-revitalises-galmudug-somalia_en)

<sup>9</sup> DTM Somalia has also implemented the Transhumance Tracking Tool (TTT) in Galmudug state, which aims to track the movements of pastoralist groups and highlight risks of conflict. See: <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/somalia-transhumance-tracking-tool-overview-february-2023?close=true>

## OBJECTIVES

To provide an evidence base on themes relevant to the Deegan Bile programme, between April and June 2023, IOM Somalia's DTM unit implemented this household assessment in Galmudug state.

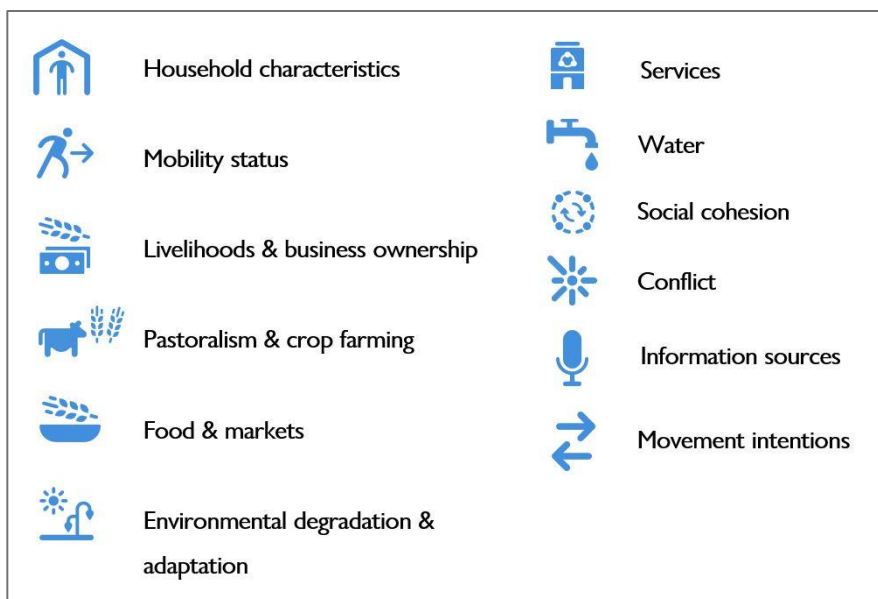
The objective of the assessment is to strengthen the evidence base on the conditions, needs and vulnerabilities of households in Galmudug state in support of strategy and programming that seeks to address the climate-conflict cycle across the state. The report aims to achieve this by:

- Providing analysis of the conditions and vulnerabilities of households in Galmudug, including how they vary according to district of residence, mobility status, and gender
- Providing a snapshot of household conditions and vulnerabilities in districts where IOM and partners are implementing activities

## ASSESSMENT THEMES

For this assessment, the survey tool was co-designed with stabilization and environmental experts. Data across a range of areas was collected, aimed at better understanding the conditions, needs and vulnerabilities of the Galmudug population as Somalia faces its worst drought in at least 40 years. The following themes are covered in this report.

Diagram 1: Assessment themes



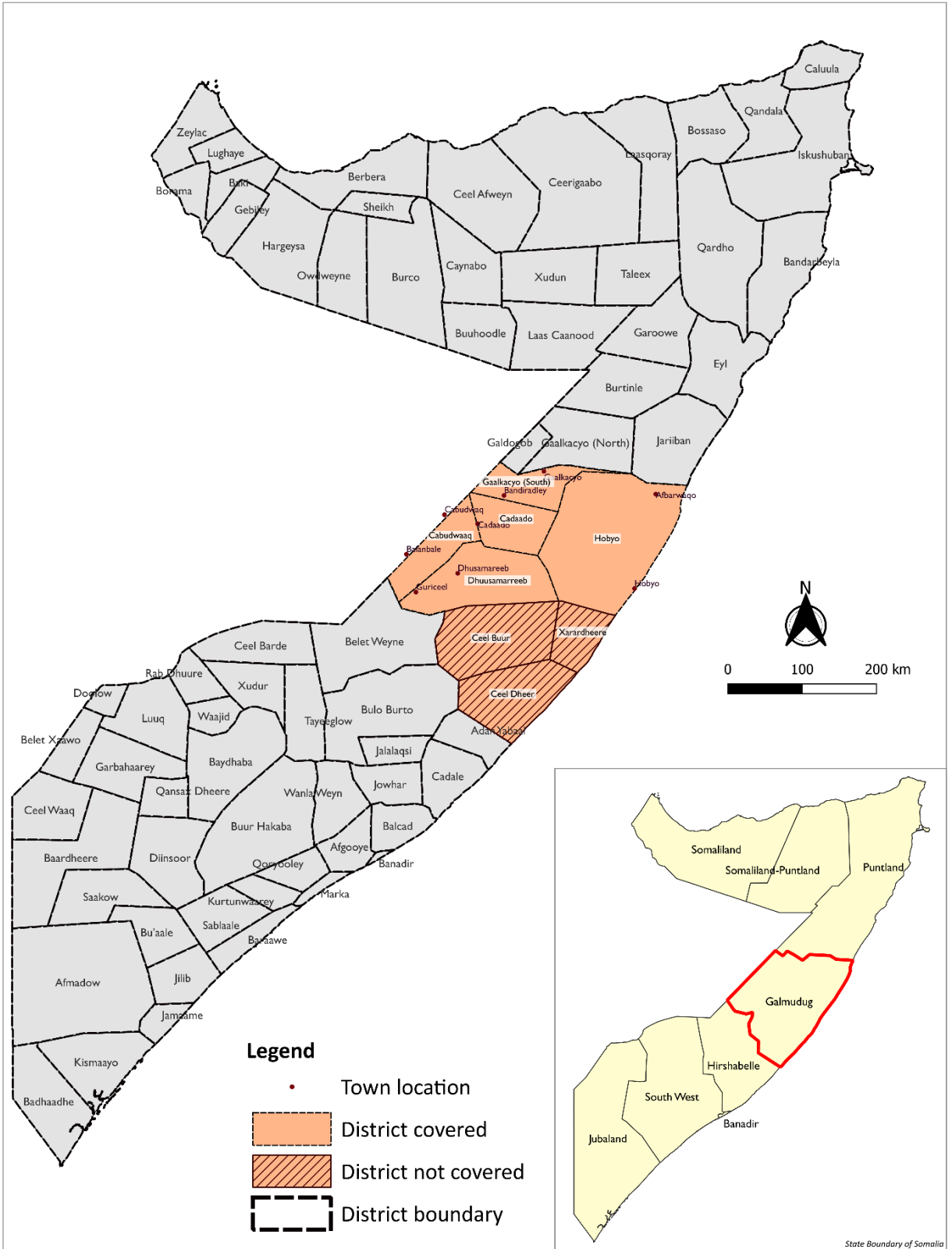




# MAP 1: GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

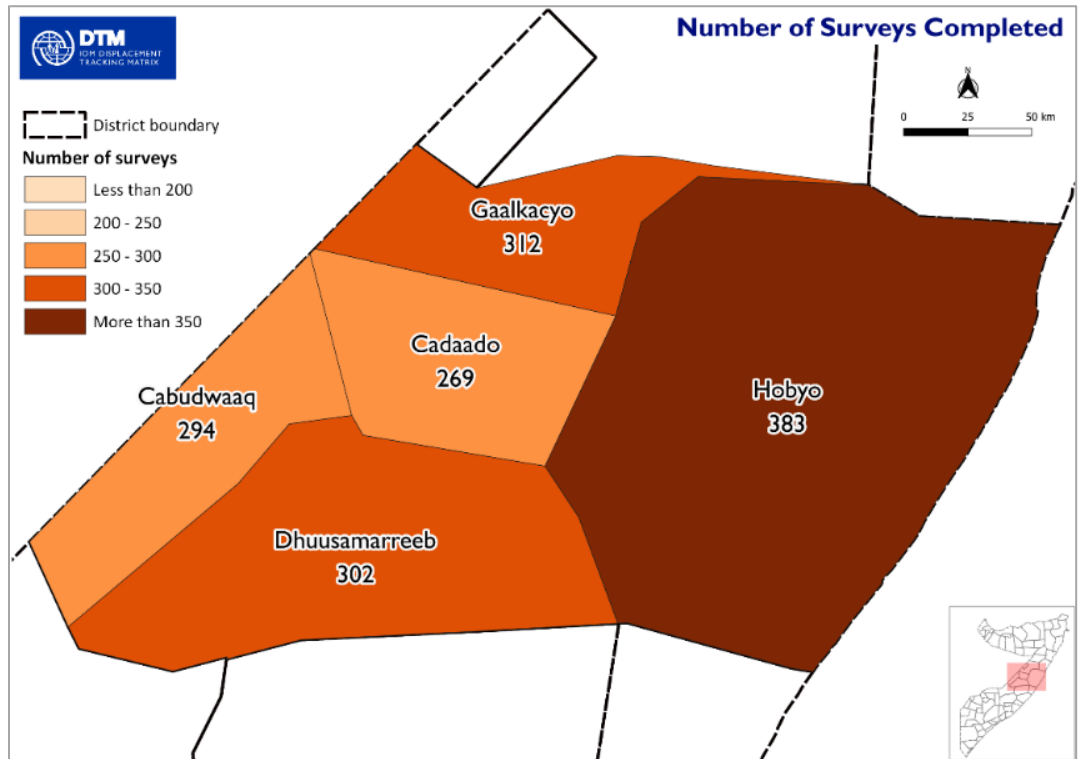


## Somalia Map: Galmudug District Profiling



Additionally, the number of household surveys conducted in each of these districts is displayed in the map below. As displayed on the previous page, due to security and access constraints, the districts of Xarardheere, Ceel Dheere and Ceel Bhuure were unable to be assessed.

**Map 2: Number of surveys completed, by district**



At the time of data collection, only digital shapefiles representing district boundaries under the first category below were available to enable a random household sample to be drawn. Therefore, throughout this report, findings are presented at the level of these districts. However, enumerators were recruited in each of the nine districts within the five districts listed under the second category, ensuring households were surveyed in each of them.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Note that indicative data is available for the districts listed under the second category

Figure 1: Distribution of districts covered by the assessment

Region	Districts (1)	Districts (2)
Mudug	Gaalkacyo	Gaalkacyo and Bandiradley
Mudug	Hobyo	Hobyo and Afbarwaaqo
Galgaduud	Dhusamarreeb	Dhusamarreeb and Guriceel
Galgaduud	Cabudwaaq	Cabudwaaq and Balanbale
Galgaduud	Cadaado	Cadaado



## METHODOLOGY

### TOOL DESIGN

The assessment used a quantitative household tool which DTM developed in collaboration with IOM Somalia’s Community Stabilization unit. The tool sought to produce data that aligns with the key themes of the *Deegal Bile* programme, to better understand the conditions, vulnerabilities and needs of communities across Galmudug.

Some indicators were developed specifically for this assessment, while others were adapted from previous research conducted by IOM in Somalia and elsewhere. These included Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) surveys; the Community Stabilization Index (COSI); and DTM Multi-Sector Location/Needs Assessments (MSLA/MSNA). The market component of the assessment is based on the Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis (EMMA) Toolkit,<sup>11</sup> which was developed by the International Rescue Committee and its partners. The questionnaire was coded in Kobo ToolBox and was used on Android phones for all surveys.

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<sup>11</sup> EMMA & International Rescue Committee (2023). Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis Toolkit. See: <https://www.emma-toolkit.org/>

## SAMPLING

A total of 1,560 households were surveyed across the districts of Cabudwaq, Dhusamareeb, Gaalkacyo, Cadaado and Hobyo. However, several enumeration areas were inaccessible due to security concerns. As such, this sampling approach has yielded indicative data in accessible areas only. In order to produce this data, a two-stage sampling strategy was employed. This consisted of determining the number of households within each district through a shelter count, utilizing digitized footprints provided by geospatial service WorldPop. Each district was then divided based on population density into different Enumeration Areas represented by polygon shapefiles, with a random selection of these areas targeted for data collection. Within each area, a list of randomly selected households were assigned to enumerators to visit and conduct the surveys. Sampling occurred at district level only and no stratification was conducted at the level of population group or any other household characteristics.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

Data that is presented in this report was collected at district level through the random sample approach outlined above. However, throughout the report, key findings are presented in several different ways. Findings are presented at aggregate and district level, while data is also disaggregated by population group (permanent residents, host communities, IDPs, returnees or nomadic) as well as female- and male-headed households. As such, all findings presented at aggregate or district level can be considered higher quality than findings disaggregated by population group or gender.

## LIMITATIONS

Findings presented in this report should be observed bearing in mind several limitations. These are summarized as follows:

- **Quantitative close-ended survey data:** the close-ended survey tool this assessment used was developed to minimize subjectivity of topics amongst respondents. While this is a useful survey tool to produce quantitative data, this type of tool is limited in its ability to

capture underlying reasons for conditions and needs that are represented in the findings. Open-ended qualitative research such as Focus Group Discussions would enable a better understanding of these underlying issues.

- **Remote assessment coordination:** due to security constraints in Galmudug the assessment was coordinated remotely. This means that staff who conducted daily data and geospatial monitoring were reliant on remote follow ups with field supervision teams. While daily checks allow for quality control of incoming data, remote coordination is likely to affect the accuracy of data in some cases. Due to access constraints and poor telephone network, it was especially difficult to monitor data collection and ensure quality control in Cadaado, which may affect some of the findings from that district.
- **Sensitive questions and risk of bias:** the survey tool included several sensitive questions, especially in relation to security and social cohesion. While enumerators sought consent from all respondents prior to conducting surveys, and regularly reminded them of the option to opt out of answering any questions due to sensitivity, there may have been cases where respondents answered questions in a particular way to reduce any perceived risks of sharing personal views or information. Therefore, sensitive indicators presented in this report should be observed recognizing that social desirability bias may affect the accuracy of findings in some instances.

## DATA COLLECTION TEAMS

For this assessment, a total of 48 enumerators were recruited across nine teams, with each led by a senior enumerator/team leader. Staff were recruited in the following districts: Cabudwaq and Balanbale (presented as Cabudwaaq); Dhusamarreeb and Guricel (presented as Dhusamarreeb); Cadaado (presented as Cadaado); Gaalkacyo and Bandiradley (presented as Gaalkacyo); and Hobyo and Afbarwaqo (presented as Hobyo). Of the enumerators, 72% were male and 28% were female. All team members participated in a two-day face-to-face training focused on the assessment implementation, including the questionnaire, using Kobo, field coordination and planning, and daily survey targets.



## ACCESS

During in the inception phase of the assessment, enumerator teams were provided with companion maps that displayed the Enumeration Areas, displayed as polygon shapefiles developed as part of the sampling strategy. Due to security risks owing to the presence of non-state armed groups or inter-clan tensions, the teams were asked to identify the accessibility status of each Enumeration Area, as well as whether overnight travel was required to visit them. Teams did not visit Enumeration Areas that were identified as unsafe.

## NAVIGATION TO HOUSEHOLDS

The Kobo form included an embedded Google maps function to support with navigation to households. While the maps proved useful for navigation to households in urban areas, due to the generally poor Google map quality in Somalia, they were unusable in regional or remote locations. To address this, enumerator teams were provided with the Enumeration Area and household GPS shapefiles which they uploaded to the SW Maps smartphone application, which has a significantly higher quality footprint information including roads and village names. Due to the difficulties with navigating to remote villages, in cases where enumerators were not able to navigate to the specific households, they surveyed the nearest accessible household and recorded this information in the form.

## HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

### RESPONDENTS AND HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Across all surveyed households, the average age of respondents is 42, with no major differences recorded across districts. As for gender of respondents, 56% of respondents were male and the remaining 44% were female. The only notable difference to this overall total was Hobyo, where almost two thirds of respondents were male (66%) and the rest (34%) were female. Additionally, overall, 60% of households indicated that the head of household is a male with the rest (40%) headed by a female.<sup>12</sup>

Figure 2: Gender of respondent (%)

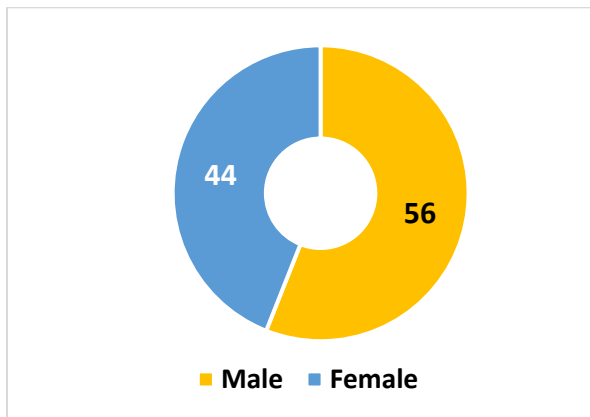
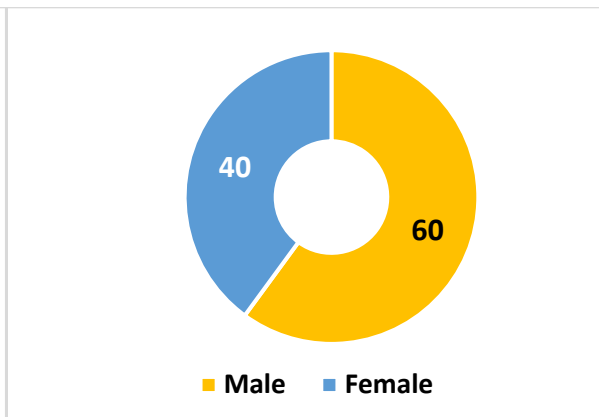


Figure 3: Gender of head of household (%)



Across all districts, an average of seven people reside in each household, and an average of three household members were reportedly under the age of 18 years old. No major differences were recorded across districts for these indicators.

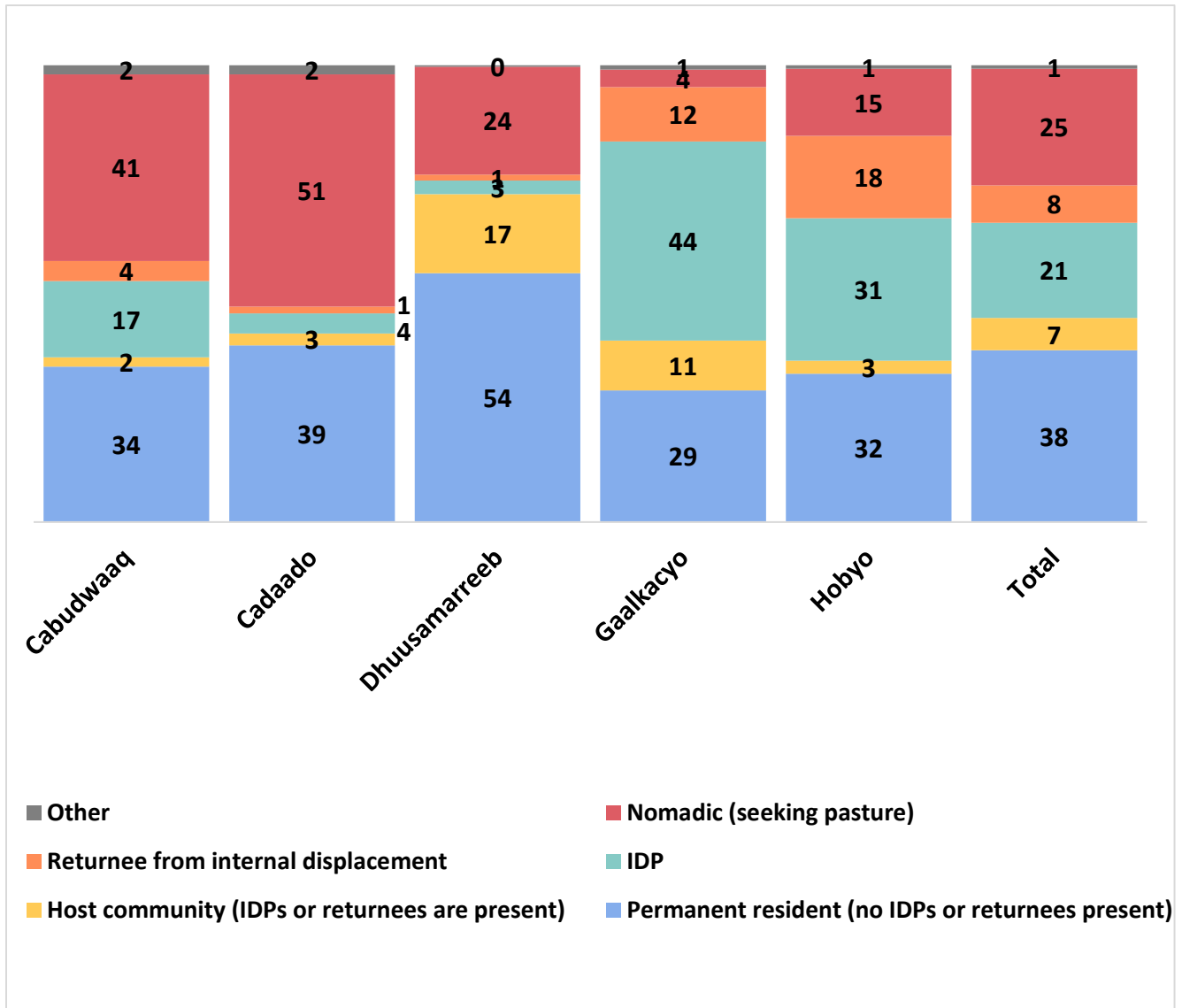
<sup>12</sup> The high rate of female-headed households may be attributable to the high number of male nomadic pastoralists across the state, who travel throughout the seasons while females often remain at home. Females therefore may have been more likely to be present at home.

## MOBILITY STATUS

Households were asked about their mobility and displacement status. Across all surveyed districts, 38% of households are permanent residents – that is, long-term occupants of the household in areas where no IDPs or returnees are present. A further 7% classified themselves as host community members, who are also long-term occupants but reside nearby IDPs or returnees. As for displacement-affected populations, around one in five households are IDPs (21%) while 8% are returnees from internal displacement. Additionally, one in four households (24%) identified as nomadic pastoralists – animal bearers who move seasonally in search of water and pasture, as distinct from IDPs. Only 1% of respondents identified as either refugees from abroad or returned migrants.

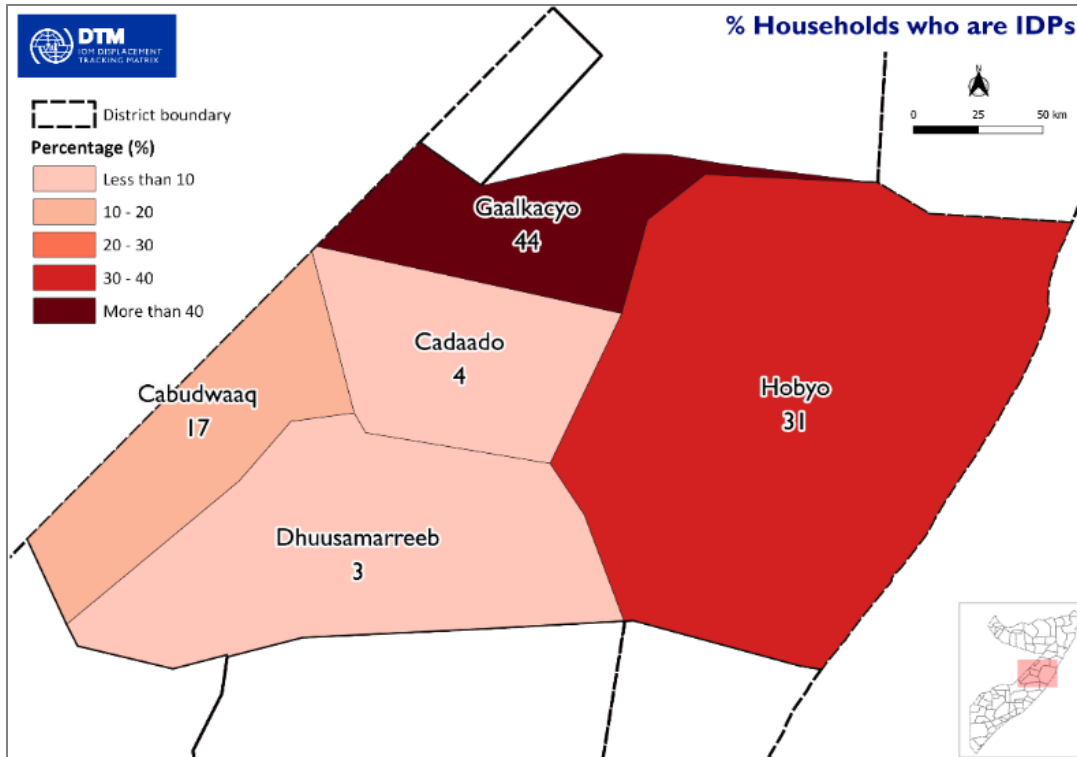
As displayed in the below graph, the status of households varied significantly across districts. By far the highest share of IDPs is in Gaalkacyo district, which hosts some of Somalia's largest IDP sites surrounding the district's capital town. Notably, a high share of the population in Hobyo (18%) and Gaalkacyo (12%) identify as returnees from internal displacement. A major share of households identified as nomadic in the districts of Cabudwaaq and Cadaado (41% and 51% respectively), along Galmudug's western corridor straddling Ethiopia's border – a hotspot for pastoralism and increasing tension over depleting water and pasture for their animals.

Figure 4: Households by displacement status (%)

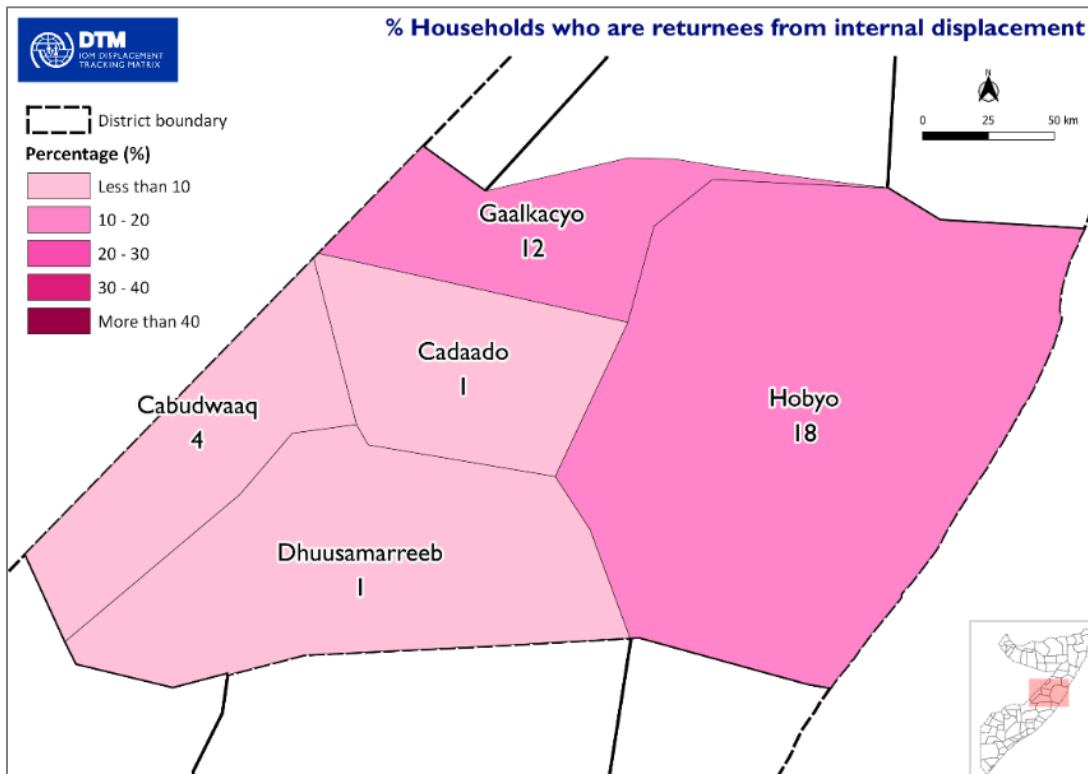


The distribution of IDPs and returnees from internal displacement – identified consistently across the data as significantly vulnerable – is displayed in the following two maps. IDPs and returnees are far more common in the districts of Gaalkacyo and Hobyo.

Map 3: Households who are IDPs, by district (%)



Map 4: Households who are returnees from internal displacement, by district (%)

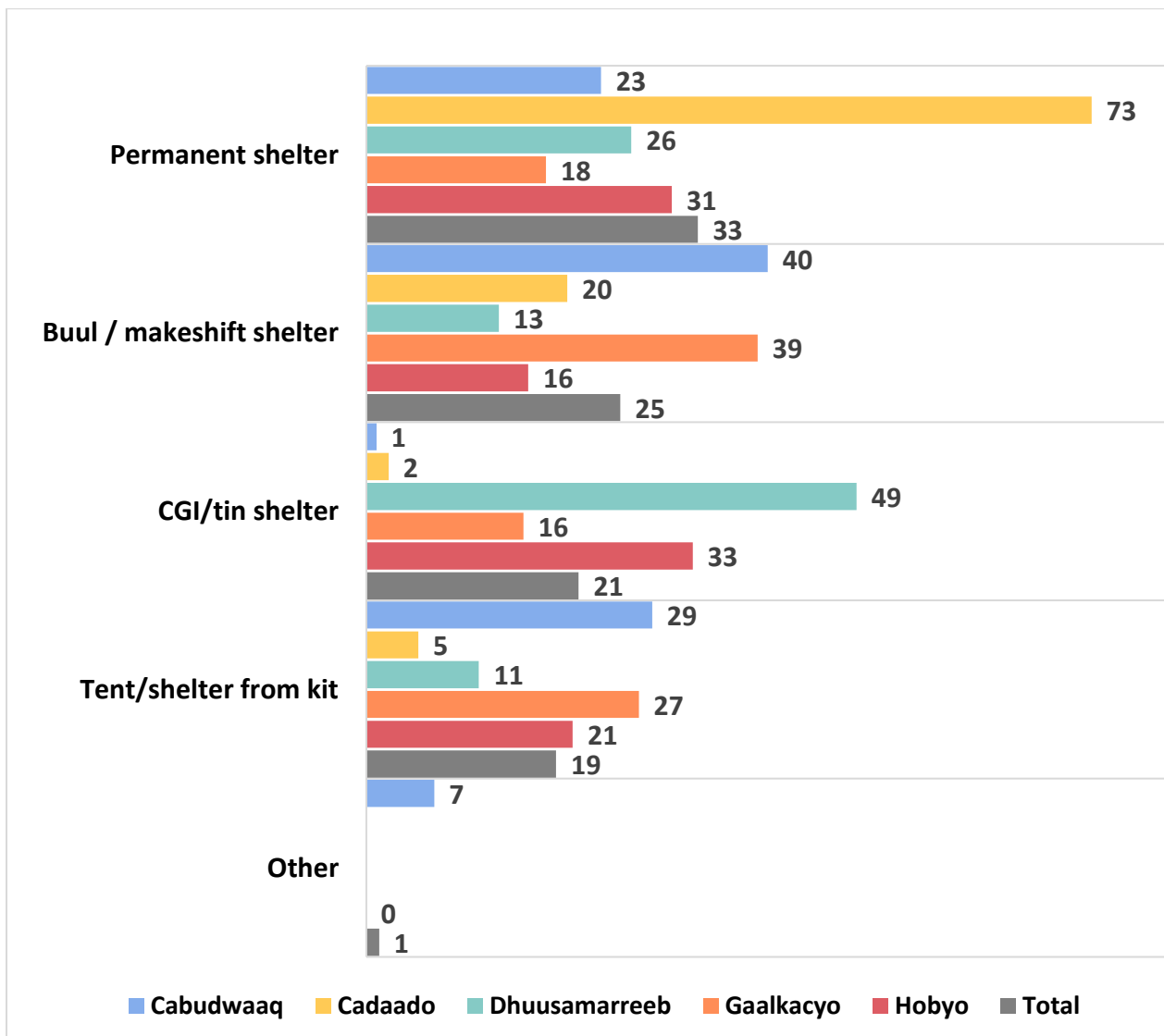






Identifying shelter types is key to understanding household level vulnerability, with permanent shelters likely to provide higher levels of protection. A third of all households (33%) in Galmudug reside in permanent shelters – fixed buildings made of either solid materials like bricks, wood, or mud. A further 25% live in *buuls* - small dome-shaped structures made from wire and cloth, while 21% live in shelters made from compacted graphite iron (CGI) or tin material. A similar proportion (19%) live in tents or shelters provided in kits by humanitarian organizations.

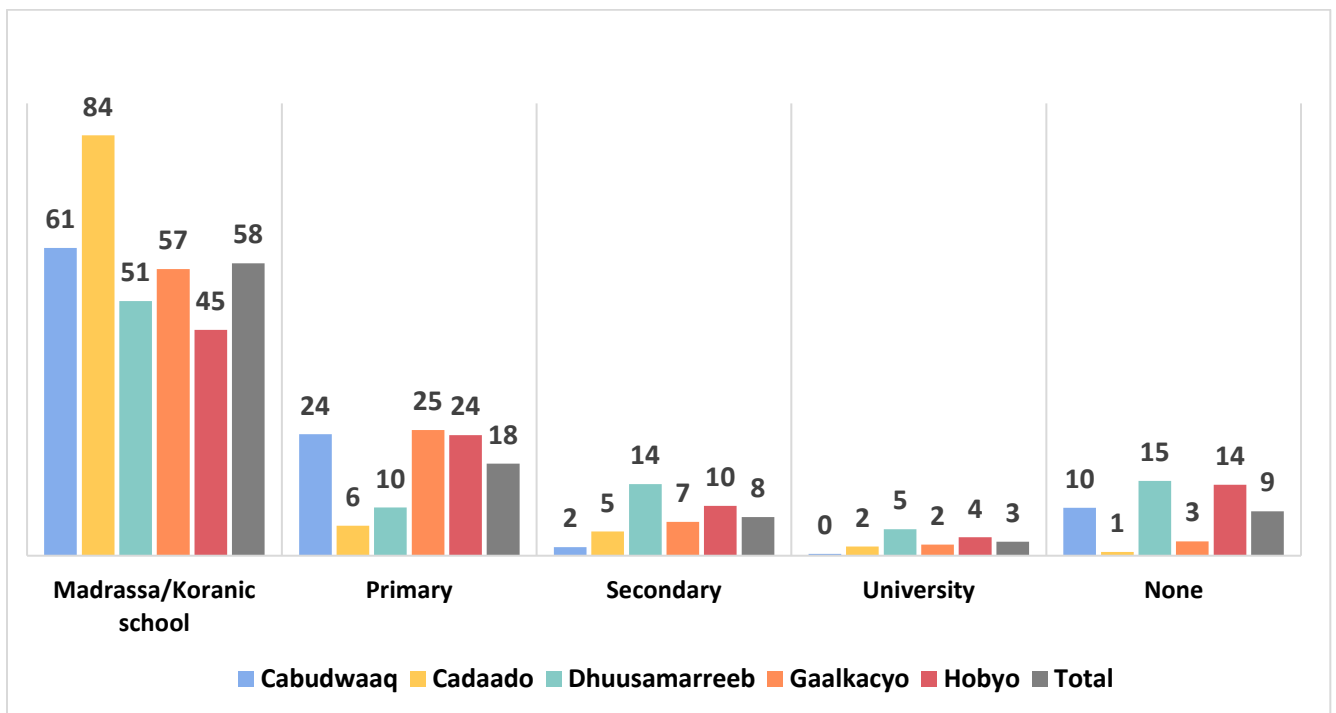
Figure 5: Shelter type, by district



## EDUCATION

Respondents were asked about the highest level of education attained by their household. Schooling in madrassas or koranic schools are by far the most common type of education, reported by 58% of households. A further 18% of households have completed primary education, 8% high school, and 9% indicating that household members have not completed any education at all. Madrassas or koranic schooling is most common in Cadaado (84%), while primary school was far more common in Cabudwaaq, Gaalkacyo and Hobyo. Rates of education types do not vary significantly according to the mobility status of households, or by gender of head of household.

Figure 6: Highest level of education attained by the household, by district



## LIVELIHOODS

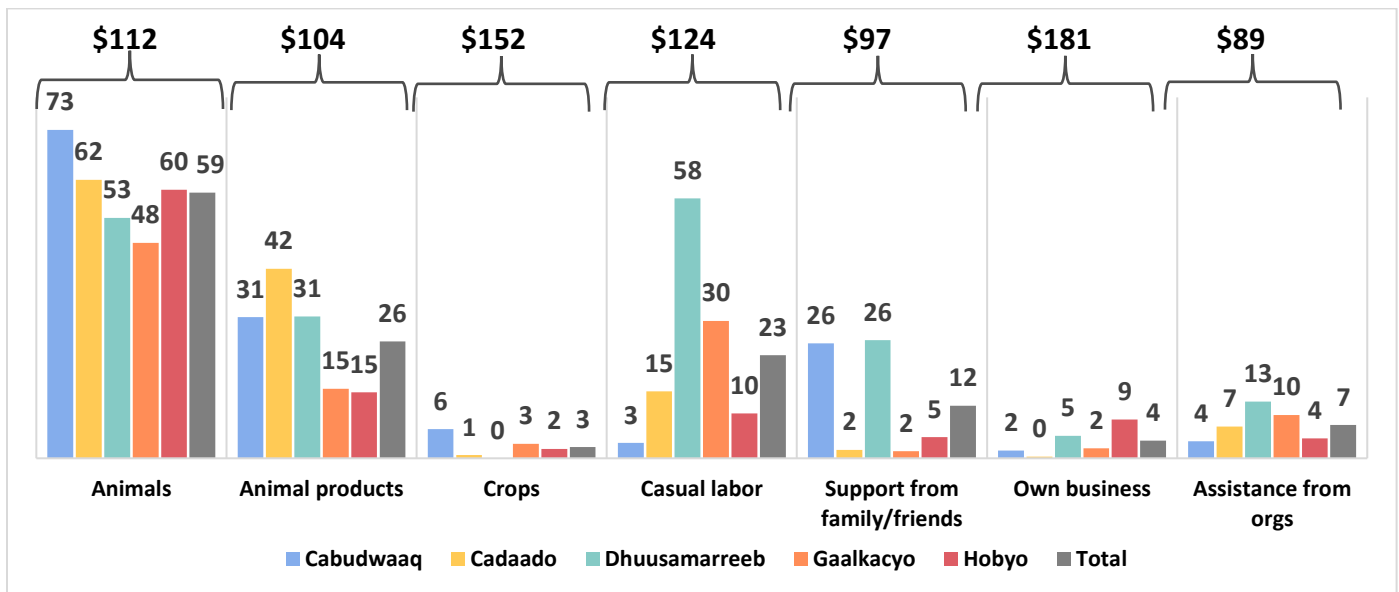
Assessing households' access to livelihoods is important in understanding drivers of vulnerability amongst families. Households were asked a series of questions on this topic, relating to income sources and amount earned as well as coping strategies to manage low purchasing power.

## SOURCES OF INCOME

As displayed below, by far the most common income source across the state is through selling animals (59%), followed by selling animal products such as milk and meat (26%), and casual labor (23%). Consistent with the geographical concentration of pastoralist practices (see pastoralism and farming section below), selling animals is most common in Cabudwaaq district (73%) along the Ethiopia border, while Cadaado is most reliant on selling animal products (42%).

Notably, 58% of households in Dhusamarreeb – an administrative and commercial center currently undergoing urban development – rely on casual labor such as construction work. As for income levels, business owners earn the most per month on average (\$181), followed by crop farmers (\$124) – although only 4% and 3% respectively of households access these more lucrative employment types. The more common practices of selling animals (\$112) and selling animal products (\$104) generate significantly less income.<sup>13</sup>

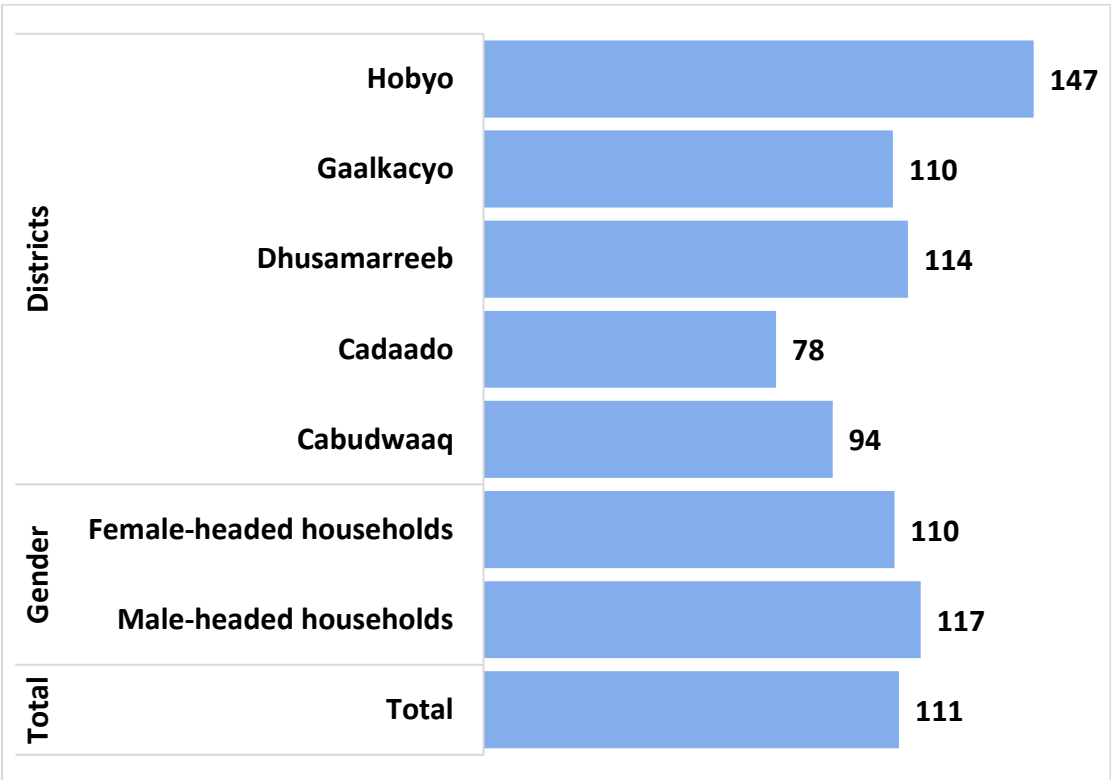
**Figure 7: Households' main income sources (%), by district & average amount earned per source (USD)**



<sup>13</sup> Households were able to select multiple options, therefore responses equal more than 100%. Additionally, note that to calculate the average amount earned per income source, only households who reported relying on a single source were accounted for in this analysis. As such these findings should be considered indicative only

While the average total amount of income earned by households is \$111 per month, significant differences are observed across districts. Residents in Hobyo earn the most per month (\$147) – almost double that earned by those in Cadaado (\$78). Households in Dhusamarreeb and Gaalkacyo earn close to the state’s average amount (\$114 and \$110 respectively), while Cabudwaaq residents earn below the average amount (\$94).

**Figure 8: Average amount of income earned by households per month, by district (USD)**

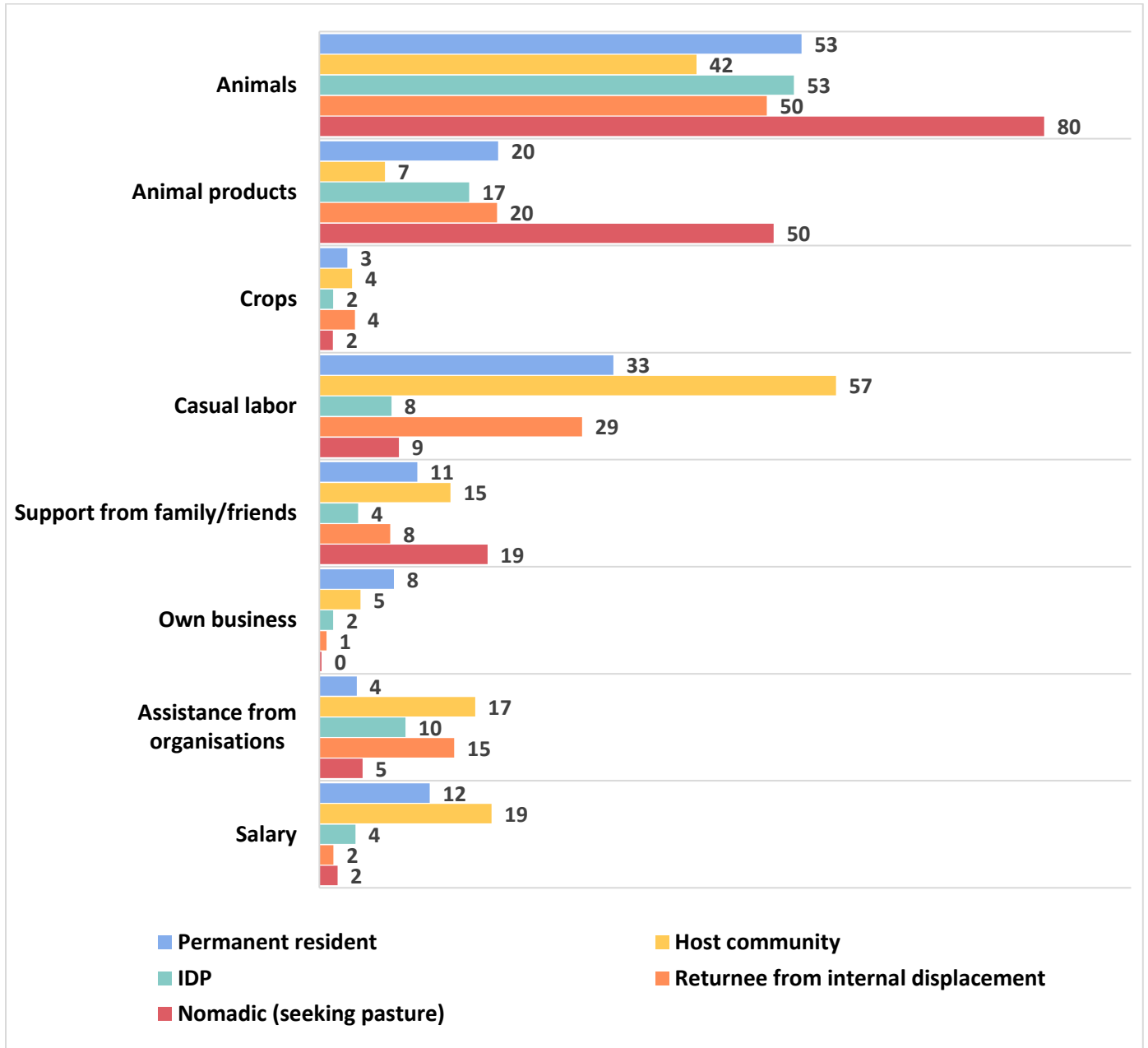


As displayed above, consistent with many gendered differences on vulnerability metrics in Somalia, the average amount earned each month by female-headed households (\$110) is less than those headed by a male (\$117) – compromising opportunities for an adequate standard of living.

In addition to differences in access to livelihoods, income sources vary according to population group. As displayed in the chart below, nomadic households are most likely to rely on selling animals (80%) and animal products (50%). In addition, casual labor is most common amongst households who are not on the move – especially host community members (57%), and to a lesser extent permanent residents (33%) and returnees from internal displacement (29%). The

same applies to those who earn salaries, which are relied on by 12% of permanent residents and 19% of host community members.<sup>14</sup>

Figure 9: Households' main income sources, by population group (%)



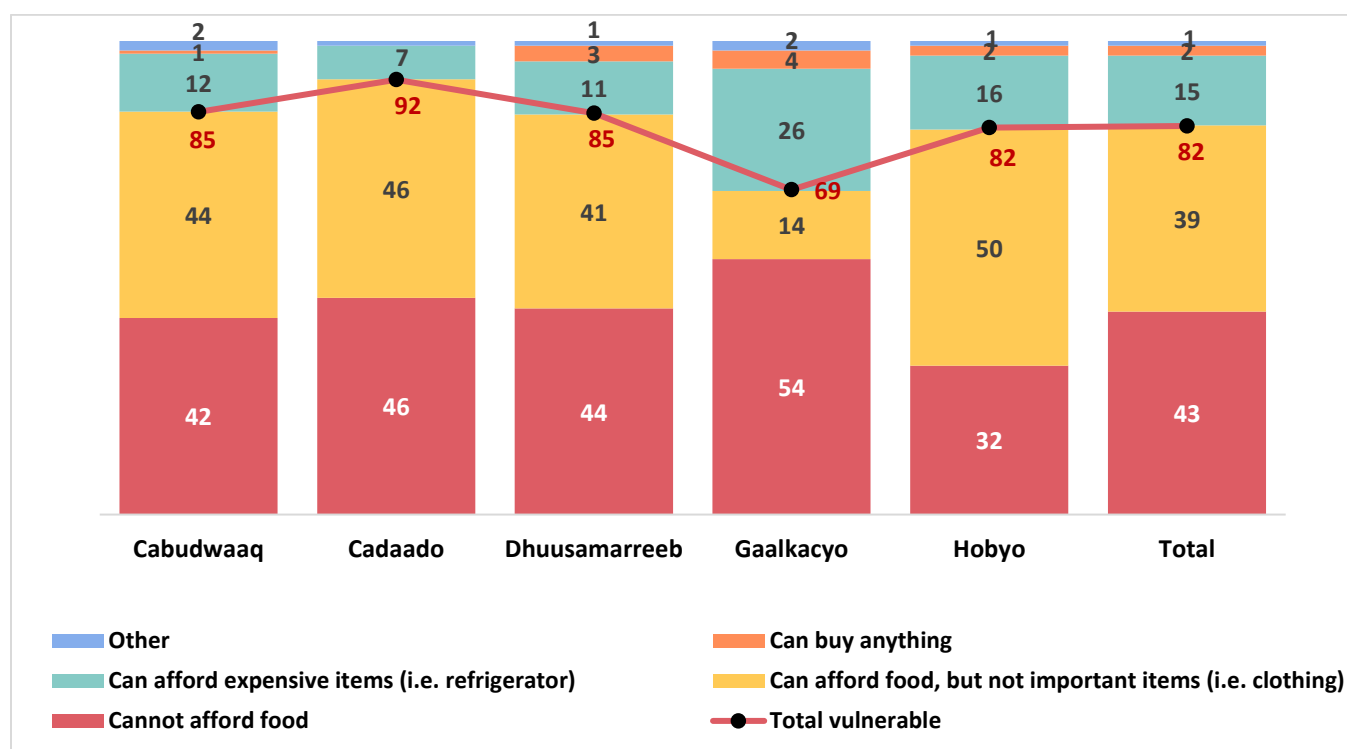
<sup>14</sup> Households were able to select multiple options, therefore responses equal more than 100%



## HOUSEHOLD PURCHASING POWER

Assessing household purchasing power is a common proxy indicator for determining the risk of poverty and vulnerability. This indicator reveals some of the most concerning findings from this assessment. Overall, 43% of households indicated they cannot afford food, with a further 39% unable to afford important items such as clothing. Gaalkacyo hosts the highest percentage of households who are unable to afford food (54%) – which is likely attributable to the high number of IDPs and returnees there, while Cadaado hosts the highest rate of households who exceed the vulnerability threshold (92%) – unable to afford food or basic items such as clothing.<sup>15</sup>

Figure 10: Self-reported purchasing power of households, by district (%)

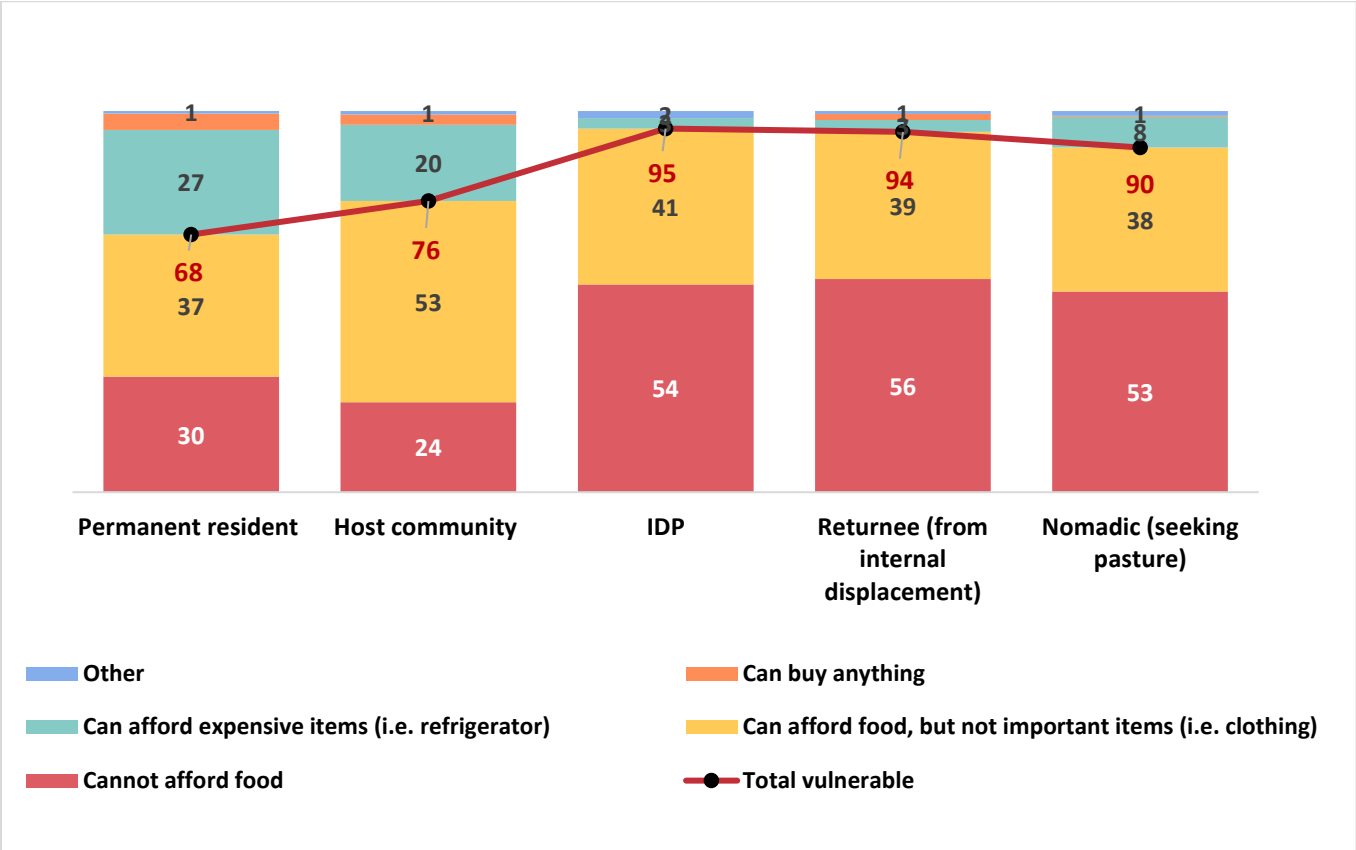


Consistent with other key indicators, data disaggregated by population group highlights the heightened vulnerability of displacement-affected households, with almost all IDPs (95%) and returnees (94%) unable to afford food or important items such as clothing – while nomadic

<sup>15</sup> The vulnerability threshold refers to households who reported being unable to afford food OR important items such as clothing

households also experience a high level of vulnerability (90%).<sup>16</sup> This is significantly higher than non-displaced households such as permanent residents (68%) and host community members (76%).

Figure 11: Self-reported purchasing power of households, by population group (%)



LIVELIHOODS COPING STRATEGIES

Households who reported insufficient resources to purchase food or important items were asked about coping strategies they employ to manage financial stress. Overall, the most common strategies are borrowing food or money, reported by 33% and 32% of all households.<sup>17</sup>

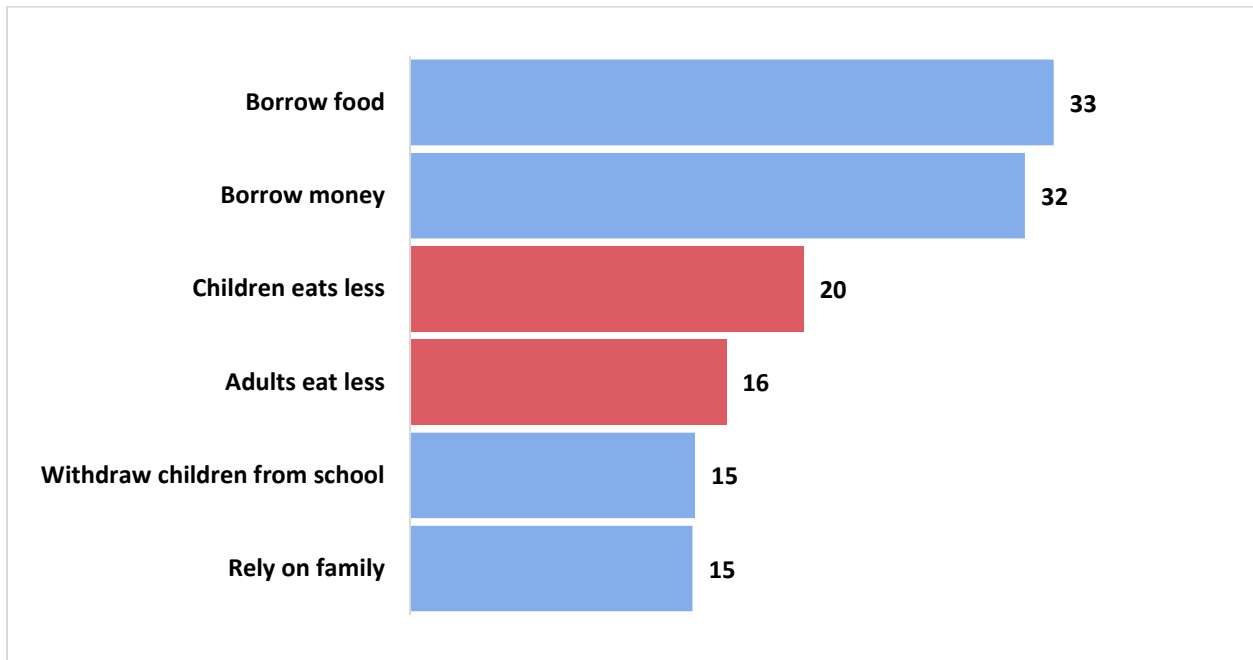
Concerningly, one in five households across the state have no choice but for children to eat less

<sup>16</sup> As above

<sup>17</sup> This does not just apply to the population subset who experience financial stress, and instead applies to all survey households, highlighting the high vulnerability of households

(20%), with a similar proportion indicating adults eat less (16%) – posing major risks to the health and welfare of these families.

Figure 12: Coping strategies employed to manage low purchasing power (%)<sup>18</sup>



## MARKET ANALYSIS (BUSINESS OWNERSHIP)

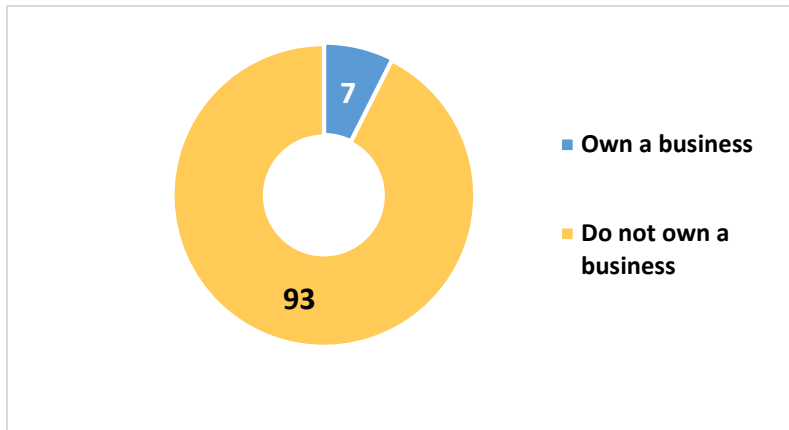
In order to better understand the commercial landscape in Galmudug, all respondents were asked if someone in the household owns a business – and 116 households (7% of all surveyed) indicated this was the case.<sup>19,20</sup> These respondents were asked a series of questions about their business, capturing data on the types of goods or services, supply and demand, as well as customer base.

<sup>18</sup> Households were able to select multiple options, therefore responses equal more than 100%. Additionally

<sup>19</sup> This low response rate is attributed to the majority of surveys being conducted in regional or remote parts of Galmudug. As with other parts of Somalia, Galmudug's commercial activity predominantly takes place in the state's urban centers. Since most surveys took place outside these urban centers, only 7% of respondents indicated owning a business

<sup>20</sup> As only 7% of all respondents are business owners, the findings are presented at the aggregate state level only and cannot be disaggregated by district or population group, and should be indicative only

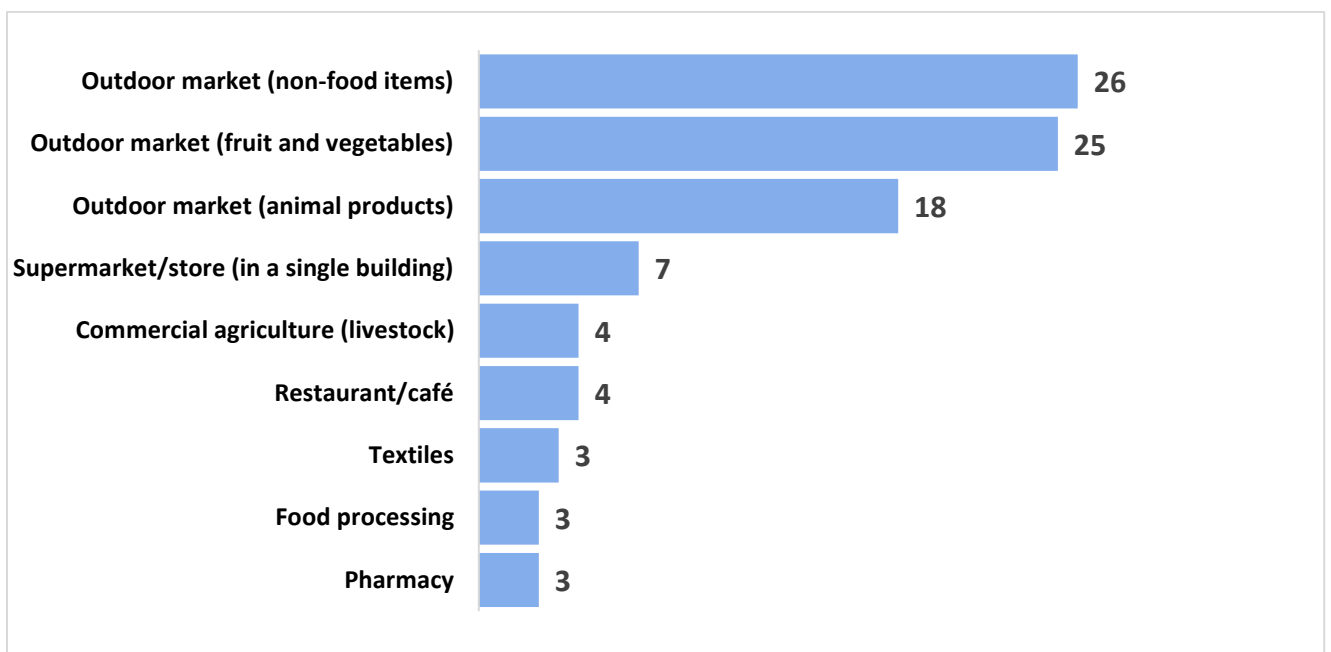
Figure 13: Rates of business ownership (%)



### TYPE OF BUSINESSES

The most common type of businesses in Galmudug are outdoor market stalls that sell non-food items (26%), fruit and vegetables (25%), or animal products (18%). Supermarkets or stores (within a single building) are also common (7%), while enterprises such as commercial agriculture centers, restaurants or cafes, textile companies, food processing facilities or pharmacies are less common (each under 5%).

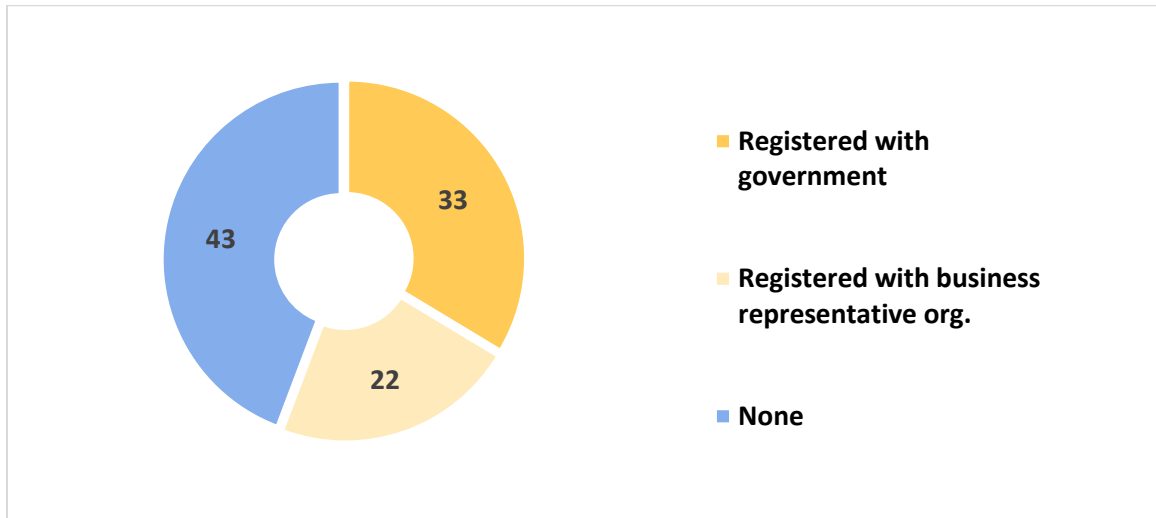
Figure 14: Type of businesses owned (%)



## BUSINESS REGISTRATION

Business owners were also asked whether they are registered. Across all those surveyed, 33% indicated they are registered with the government, while 22% are registered with a business representative organization. The remaining 43% reported not being registered at all.

Figure 15: Businesses registered with government of business representative organisations



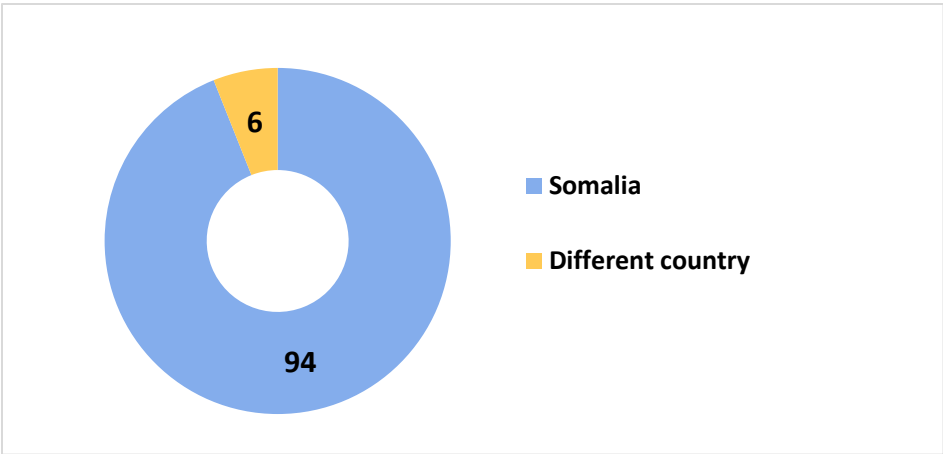
## BUSINESS EMPLOYEES

An additional set of questions was asked regarding the number of staff that business owners employ, and how many of these staff are family members. An average of six staff members are employed by businesses owners, with one out of six reported to be family members of the business owner.

## SUPPLY OF GOODS

On the question of where businesses source their supplies, almost all (94%) indicated relying on suppliers within Somalia while the remaining 6% import goods from different countries.

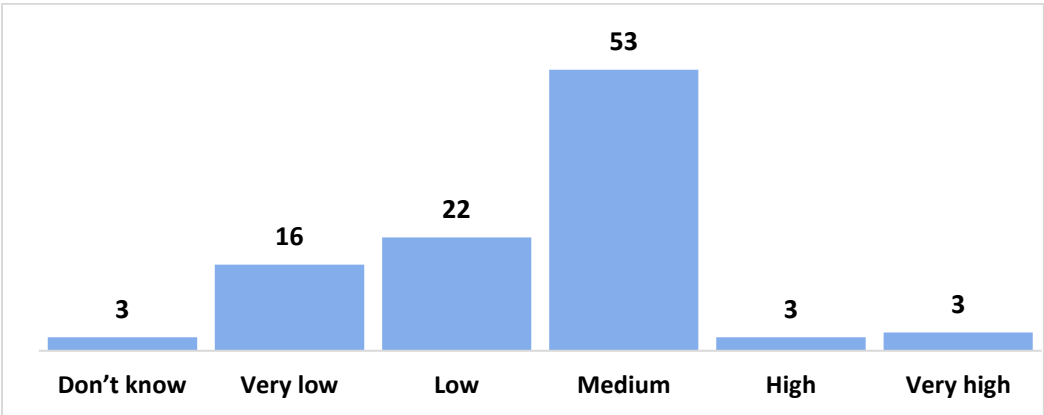
Figure 16: Location of suppliers of goods to businesses (%)



**STOCK LEVELS**

These respondents were asked an additional question on their current level of stock compared with the average amount over the previous three years.<sup>21</sup> Overall, only 6% reported that stock levels have been very high or high, followed by medium (53%), low (22%), or very low (16%). This suggests that businesses are likely to struggle with accessing enough stock to achieve strong levels of cashflow, thereby lowering the chance to invest and grow their enterprises.

Figure 17: Current level of stock compared with the average over the previous three years (%)

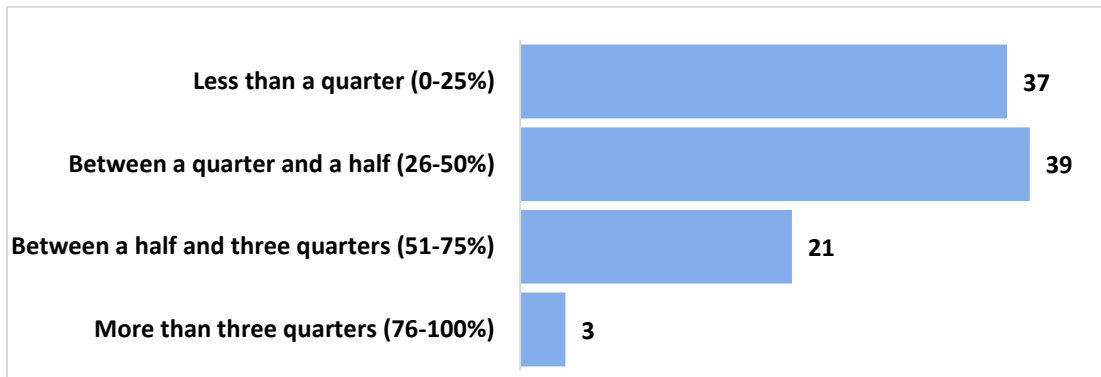


<sup>21</sup> A higher level of stock is likely to represent a higher level of access to supplies when needed to respond to demand

## STOCK TURNOVER

A related question concerned the amount of stock sold each month in the business. Most business owners reported selling less than a quarter (37%) or between a quarter and a half (39%) of their stock each month, highlighting low demand or purchasing power amongst the business' customer base.

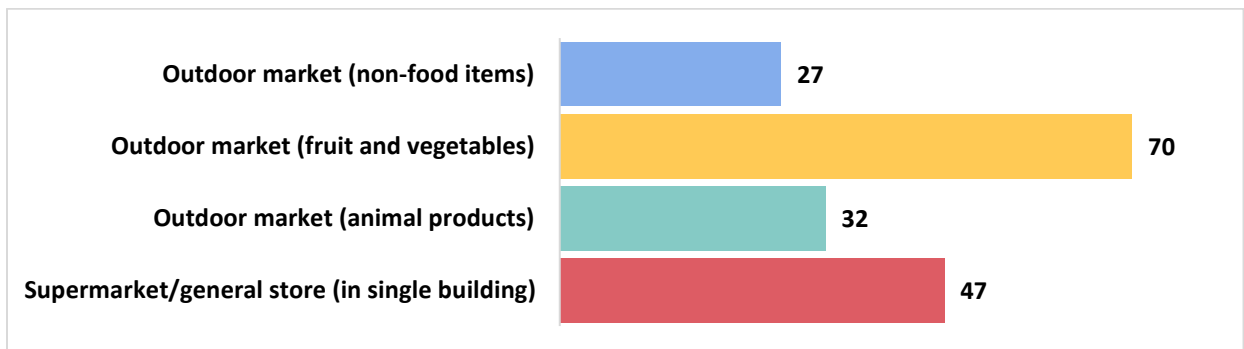
Figure 18: Average amount of stock by the business sold each month (%)



## CUSTOMER VISITS TO THE BUSINESS

On average, business owners reported that 49 customers visit their shops each week, although this varied according to the type of business. The average number of customers who visit fruit and vegetable vendors per week is 70, more than double the average customer visits to those that sell non-food items (27) or animal products such as meat (32). Supermarkets receive an average of 47 customers per week.

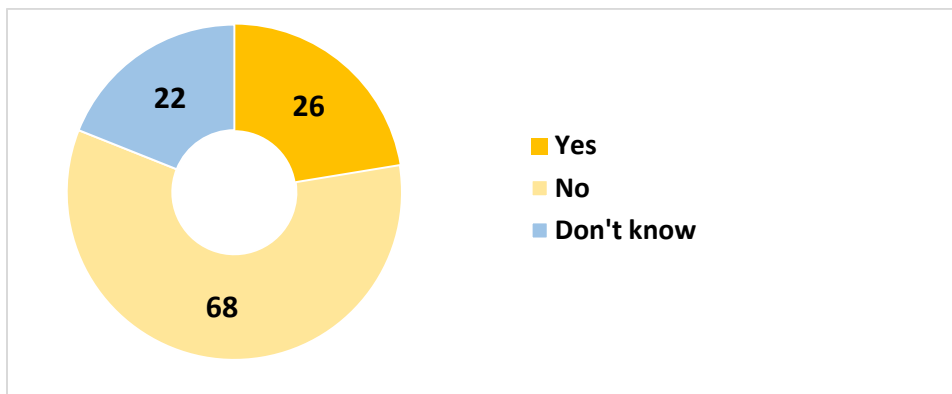
Figure 19: Average number of customers per week, by type of business (#)



## DIFFICULTY FINDING GOODS AMONGST BUSINESSES

Business owners were asked whether customers in their area find it difficult to find particular goods in markets or shops. Around a quarter (26%) indicated they do face challenges, while 68% reported this was not the case and the remaining 22% did not know.

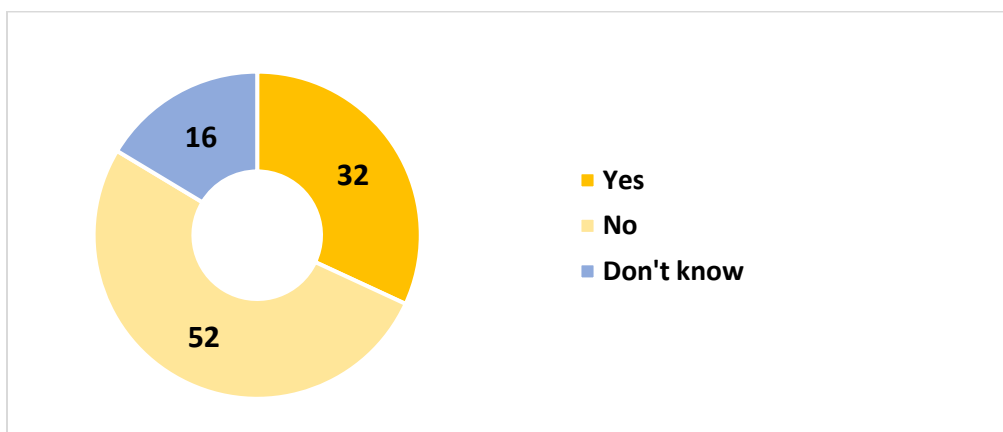
Figure 20: Businesses reporting that customers face difficulties finding goods they need in the market or shops (%)



## DIFFICULTIES FINDING SKILLS FOR THE BUSINESS

Another question was posed to business owners regarding difficulties with finding the skills that are needed for their business. One in three business owners (32%) indicated they struggle to find skills amongst prospective employees, pointing to a significant skills deficit across the state.

Figure 21: Difficulty finding skills for the businesses (%)







## PASTORALISM AND CROP FARMING

Galmudug is heavily reliant on pastoralism as a source of economic activity, while crop farming is less common. To better understand pastoralism and farming practices across the state, all households were asked a series of questions covering key issues related to each industry. These issues include the rates at which these practices are employed, perceived changes and impacts of climatic changes on farming animals and crops, as well as ownership of productive livelihoods assets in support of income generation. Findings across these topics are explored below.

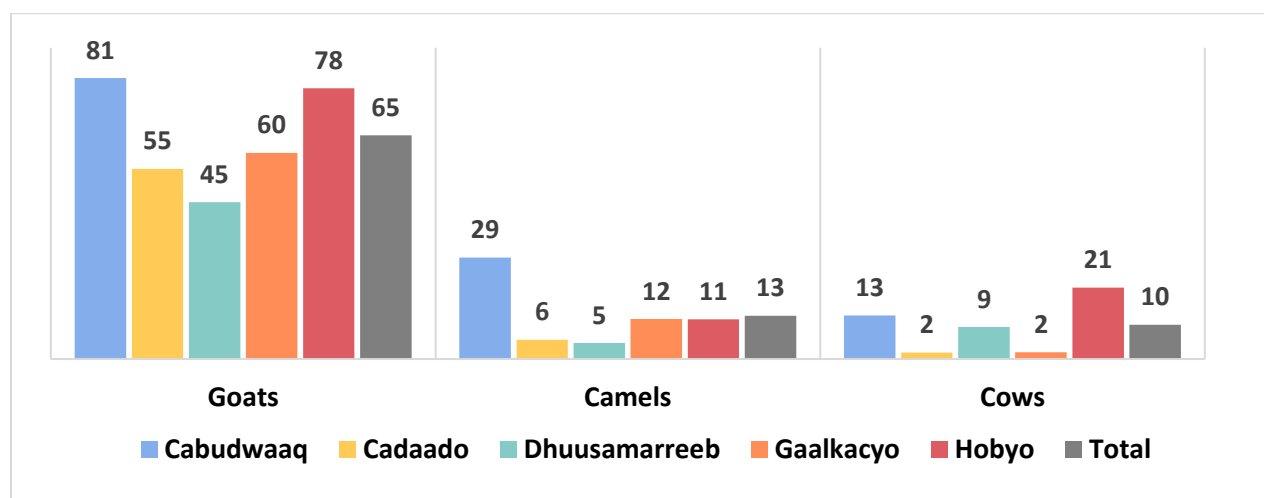


### PASTORALISM

#### OWNERSHIP OF ANIMALS

Across all surveyed households, 85% indicated owning at least one animal. As displayed below, goats are the most common animal (65%) owned overall – and is notably higher in the districts of Cabudwaaq (81%) and Hobyo (78%). Camels are the next most commonly owned animal at 13%, and are most commonly found in Cabudwaaq (29%). Cow ownership is less common, with one in 10 households (10%) indicating this is the case – although households in Hobyo are more likely to own them (21%).<sup>22</sup>

Figure 22: Rates of ownership per type of animal, by district (%)

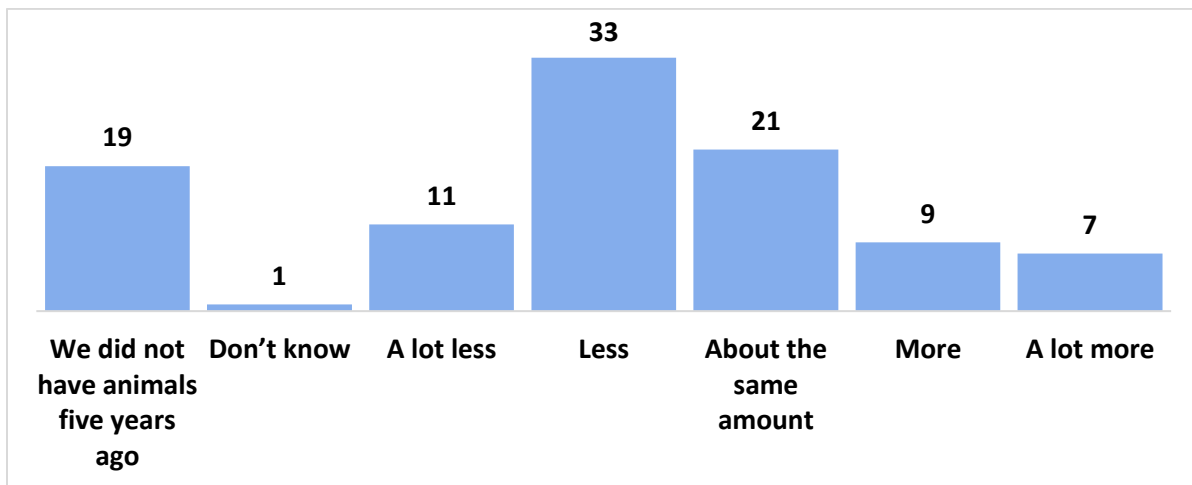


<sup>22</sup> Households were able to select multiple options, therefore responses equal more than 100%

## CHANGES TO ANIMAL QUANTITY

Households who own animals were asked a follow up question on regarding changes to their quantity over the past five years. Overall, just under half of all households (44%) indicated having a lower or much lower number of animals compared to five years ago. Conversely, only 16% reported having more animals compared to five years ago.

Figure 23: Changes to quantity of animals over the past five years (%)



## REASONS FOR REDUCTION IN ANIMALS OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS

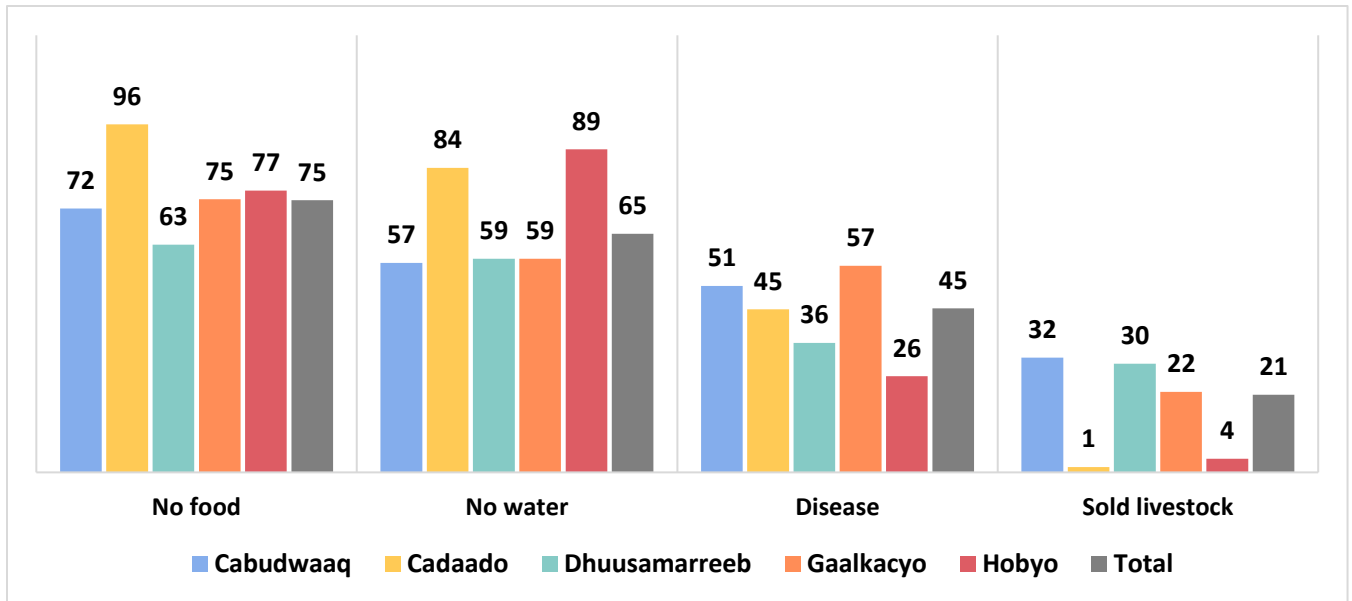
Households who reported observing a decline in the number of animals were asked to specify why.<sup>23</sup> Overall, the most common reason was no food/pasture for the animals (75%), followed by no water (65%), and disease (45%). One in five households (21%) indicated having sold them during the past five years. As displayed below, the reasons for animal decline vary across districts.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> The data presented in this section refers to the subset of households who indicated observing a reduction in animals over the past 5 years

<sup>24</sup> Households were able to select multiple options, therefore responses equal more than 100%

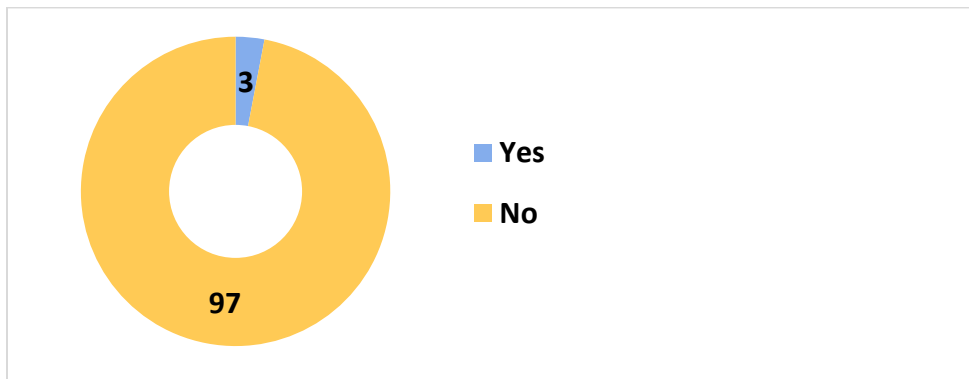
Figure 23: Households reporting reasons for reduction in animals over the past 5 years (%)



## CROP FARMING

Compared with animal ownership, a very low proportion of households (3%) reported farming land for crops. This low rate can be attributed to families in Galmudug relying mostly on fruit and vegetables from Hiraan region to the south, which hosts the Shabelle river – a key water source for crop farming. The rates of growing crops did not vary significantly across districts, with this practice most common in Cabudwaaq (6%). Of the small number of households who did indicate growing crops, almost all reported owning the land they use for doing so.

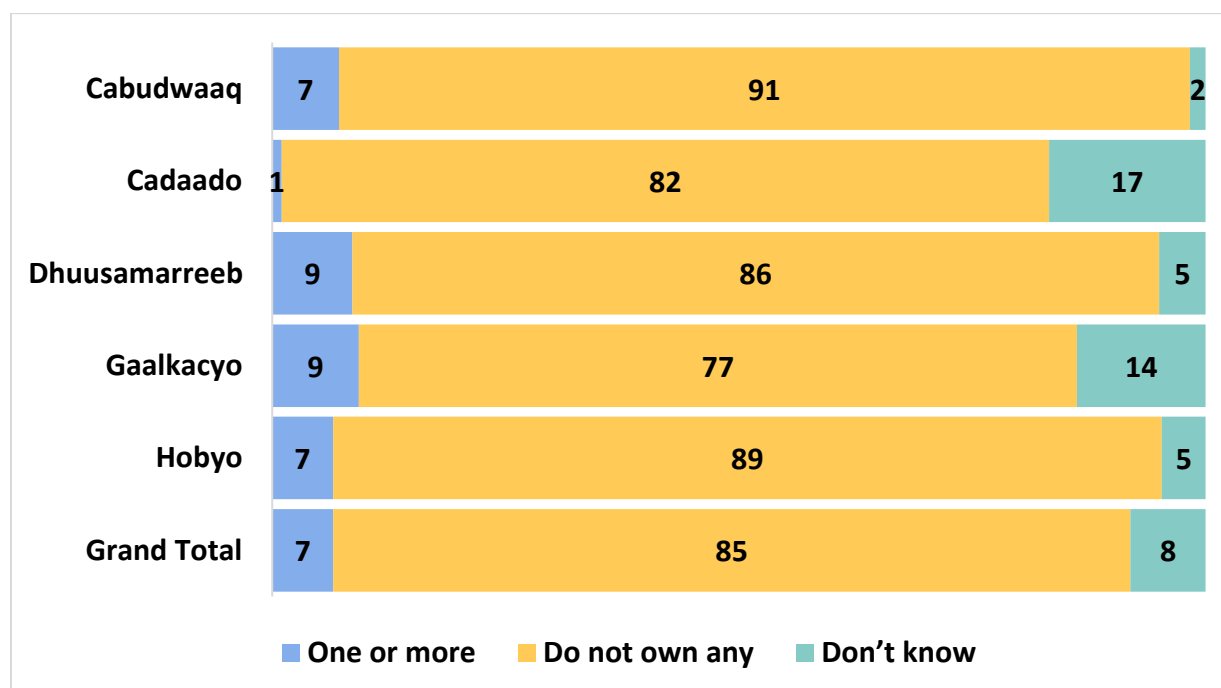
Figure 24: Households who farm land for crops (%)



## PRODUCTIVE LIVELIHOODS ASSETS FOR PASTORALISM AND CROP FARMING

In Somalia (and globally), there is a widely recognized link between farmers' possession of livelihoods assets and higher productivity levels in farming animals or crops. To explore this issue, households were asked whether they own any assets, such as equipment or machinery, to aid these farming practices. As displayed below, only 7% of households reported this was the case. Ownership rates were low across all districts, especially in Cadaado where only 1% indicated owning these assets.

Figure 25: Ownership of productive livelihoods assets to support pastoralism or farming (%)

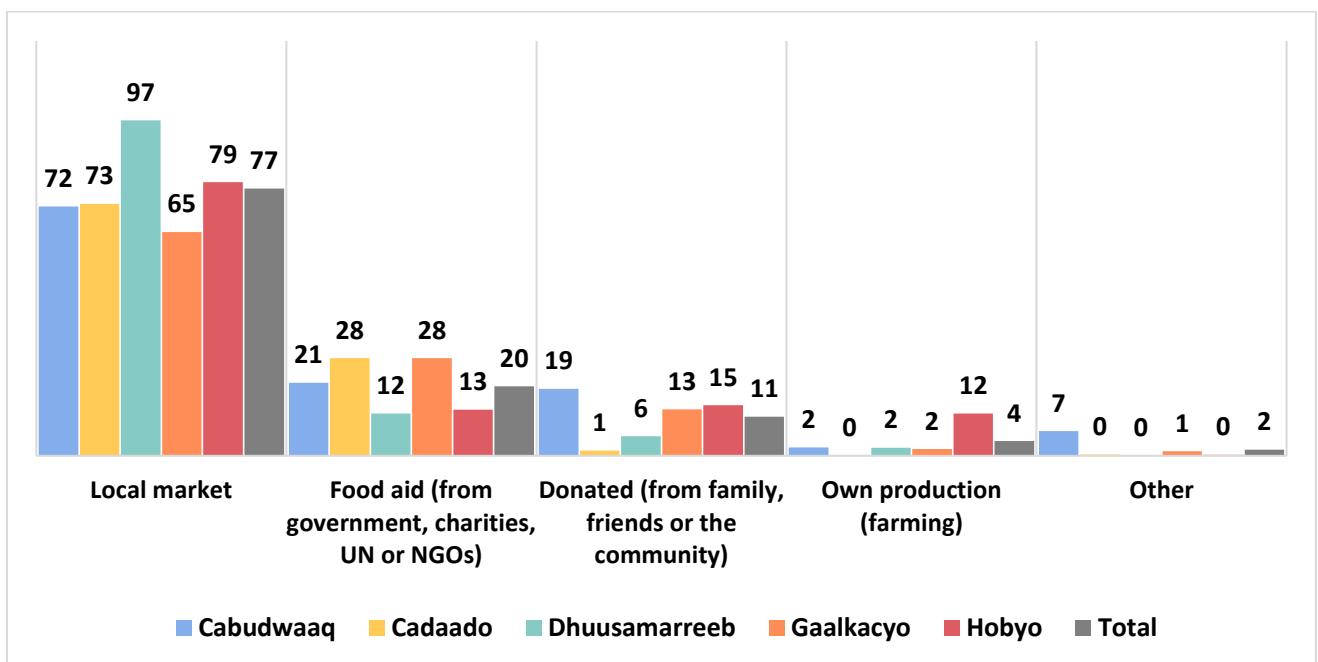


Households were asked a series of questions with regards to food – an important domain in the context of the drought. Questions in this section referred to where households access food, travel distances to collect it, as well as cases where families have been unable to access a sufficient amount of food in recent months.

## SOURCES OF FOOD<sup>25</sup>

On the question of where households get their food, around three quarters indicated from the local market (77%). A further 20% reported relying on food aid, with 11% receiving donated food from family or community members. Only 4% grow their own food, aligning with the abovementioned findings on low rates of crop farming. Households in Hobyo are most likely to farm their own crops (12%).<sup>26</sup>

Figure 26: Food sources accessed by households (%)



## TRAVEL TO THE NEAREST MARKET

Time taken to travel to the market highlights households' risk of food insecurity, with households requiring longer journeys less likely to access a sufficient level of food for their family.<sup>27</sup> As displayed in the graph, overall, 22% can visit the market in under 30 minutes, 35% take between

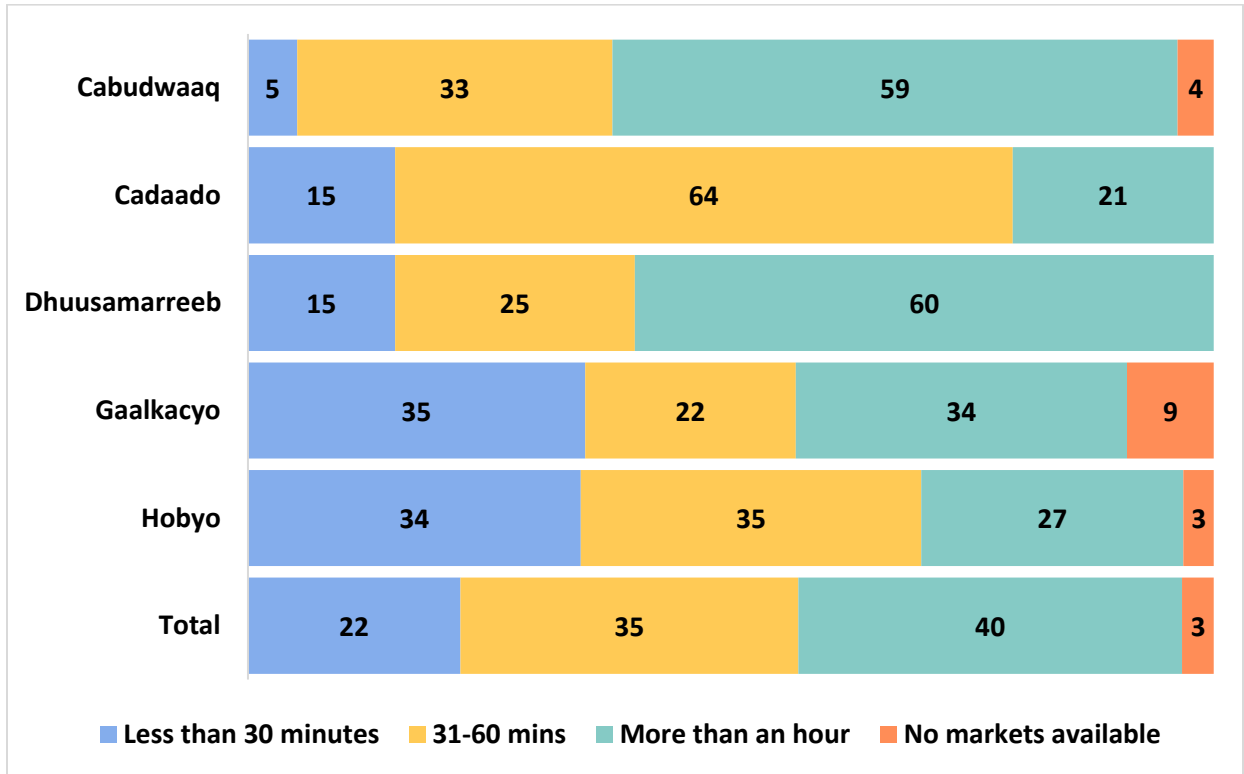
<sup>25</sup> For this question households were able to select multiple options. Therefore total responses equal more than 100%

<sup>26</sup> For this question households were able to select multiple options. Therefore total responses equal more than 100%

<sup>27</sup> Note that the majority of surveys were conducted in rural areas, which is likely to have contributed to the high rate of households traveling long distances to the nearest market

31-60 minutes, and 40% take more than hour. Concerningly, 3% indicated a complete lack of accessible markets – with households in Gaalkacyo over-represented on this indicator (9%).

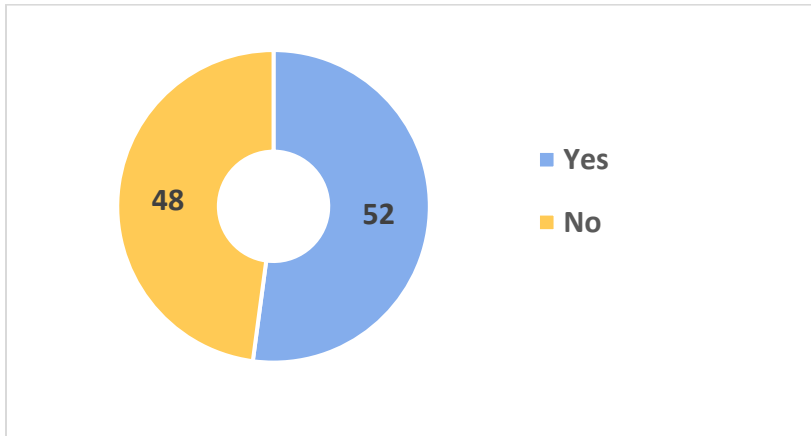
Figure 27: Time taken to travel to the nearest market (%)



### INSUFFICIENT FOOD

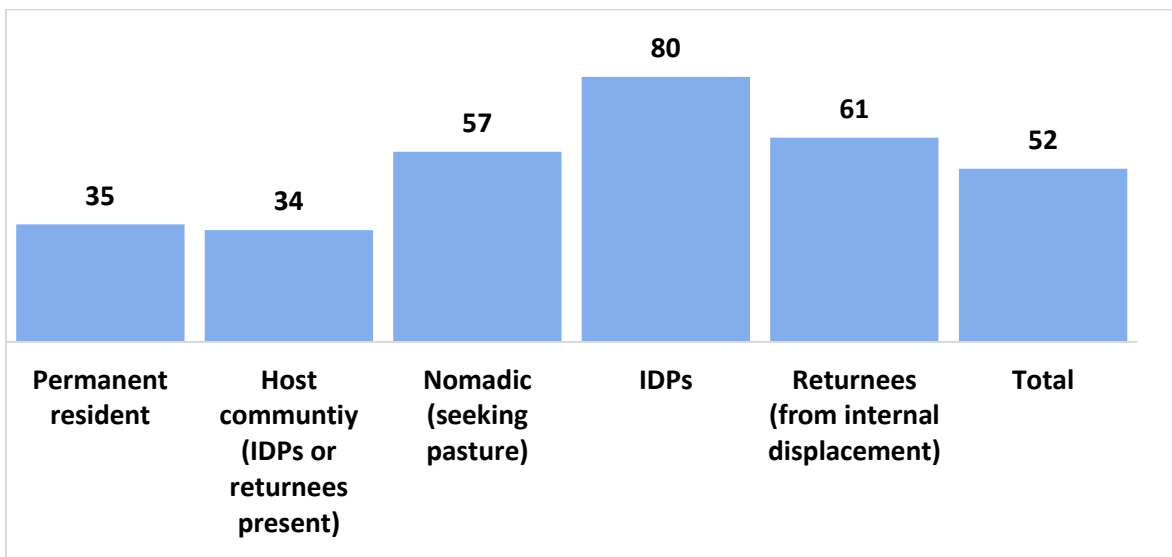
An additional question was posed to households regarding whether they have experienced insufficient food to feed all family members in the past three months. Representing one of the most concerning findings of this assessment, over half (52%) of the surveyed households reported this was the case. No major differences were recorded across districts for this indicator.

Figure 28: Households who have experienced times in the past 3 months where they have no food to feed the family



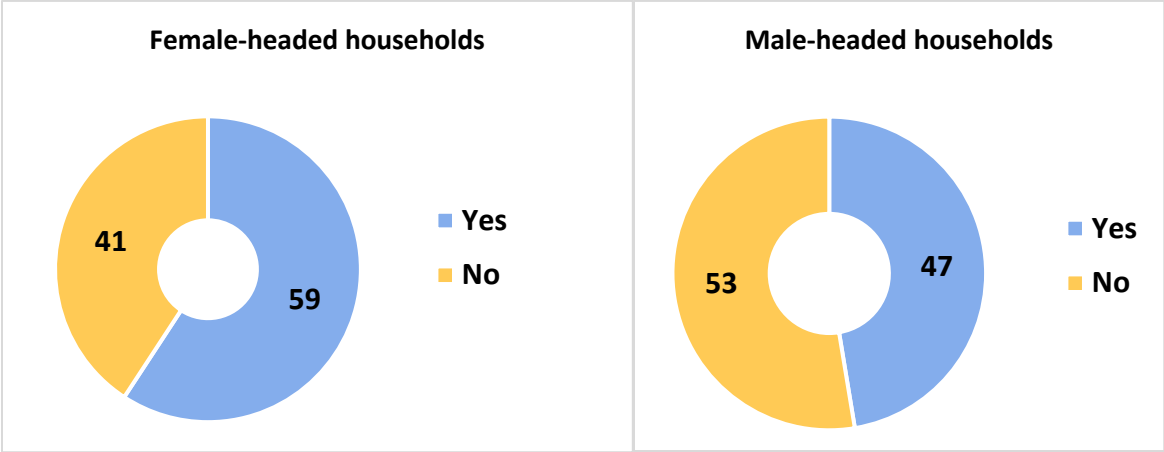
While findings did not vary by district, significant differences were reported according to population group. IDPs are far more likely to have faced food shortages to meet household needs in the past three months (80%), while returnees (61%) and nomadic households (57%) have also faced this challenge at above-average rates.

Figure 29: Households who have experienced times in the past 3 months where they have no food to feed the family, by population group (%)



Additionally, further analysis reveals that female-headed households are more likely than those headed by a male to have faced this concerning challenge, pointing to heightened risks of food insecurity. Refer to the graph below.

**Figure 30: Female-headed households vs. male-headed households who have experienced times in the past 3 months when they had no food to feed the family**



## ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND ADAPTATION

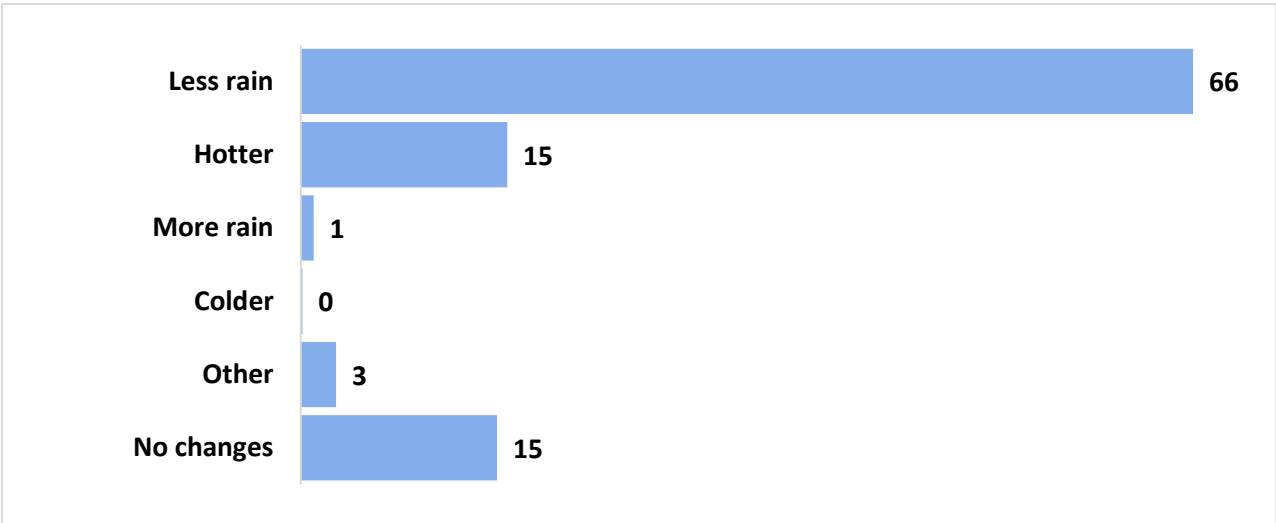
As with the rest of Somalia, Galmudug state has for decades suffered the growing consequences of climate change and environmental degradation. As explored throughout this report, families in Galmudug are heavily reliant on pastoralism as a source of livelihoods, which requires predictable rainfall to thrive. To understand perceptions of environmental changes, households were asked what types of changes they have observed, as well as measures taken to adapt to the increasingly challenging weather conditions across the state.

### PERCEIVED CHANGES IN WEATHER

On the question of perceived weather changes in the past 10 years, two thirds of households (66%) in Galmudug reported observing lower rainfall, and a further 15% have noticed hotter temperatures. Of all those surveyed, only 15% reported not observing any changes at all. Rates of households observing weather changes did not vary significantly across districts.



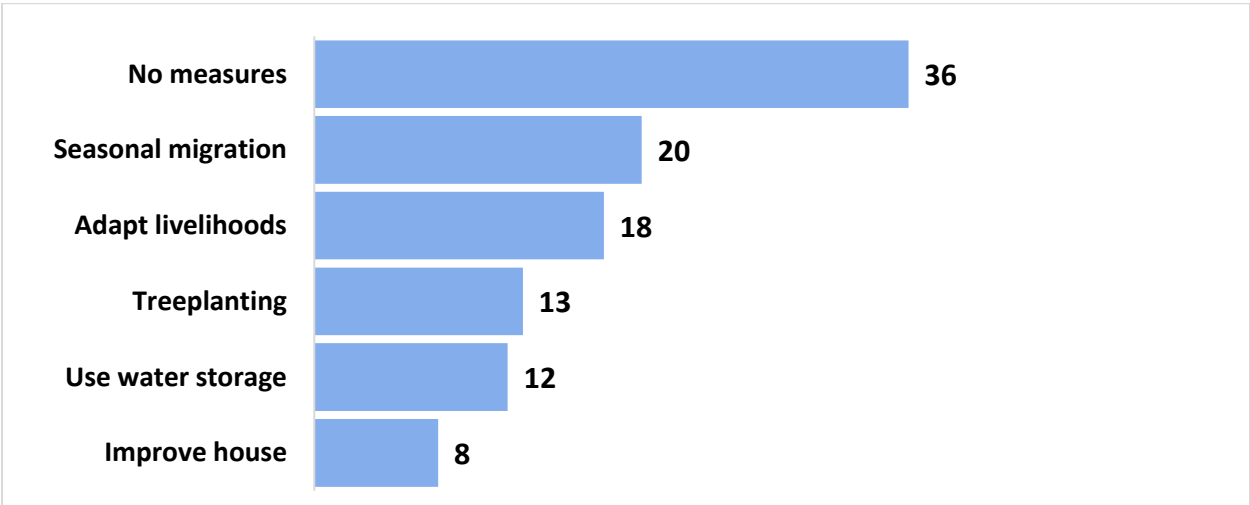
Figure 31: Perceived changes in weather over the past 10 years



**ENVIRONMENTAL ADAPTATION MEASURES**

Households who reported observing changes to the weather were asked what environmental adaptation measures they have taken. Pointing to a need for increased awareness, around a third of these households (36%) indicated taking no measures at all, while 20% seasonally migrate and 18% adapt their livelihoods to manage the changing climate.

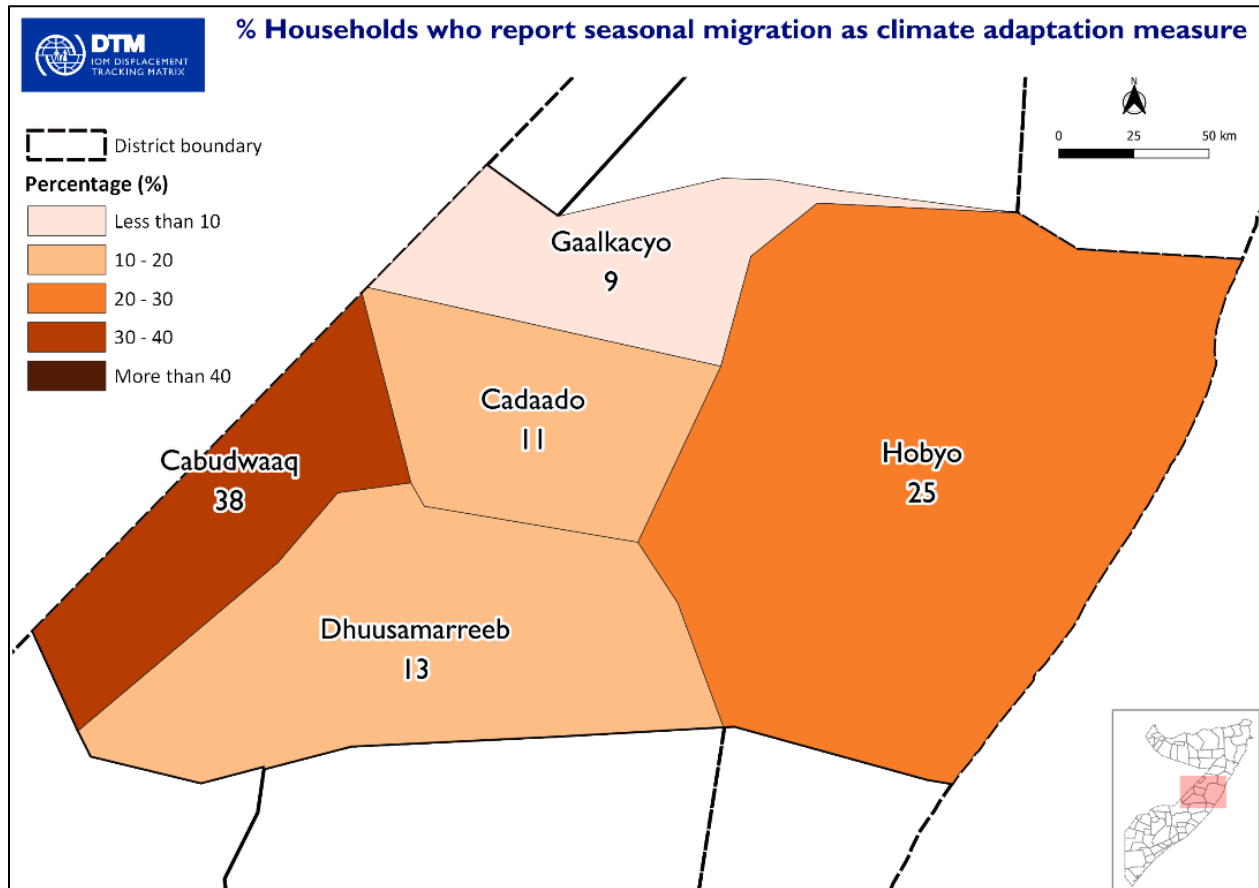
Figure 32: Measures taken to adapt to the changing climate over the past 10 years (%)



Half of those who have taken up seasonal migration in the past 10 years now identify as nomadic households (50%), while 19% are IDPs and 13% are permanent residents – highlighting the

dynamic movements at the intersection of displacement and pastoralism in the face of depleting water sources across the state. Households in Cabudwaaq and Hobyo were significantly more likely to take up seasonal migration to adapt to worsening weather conditions.

Map 5: Households who report seasonal migration as a climate adaptation measure



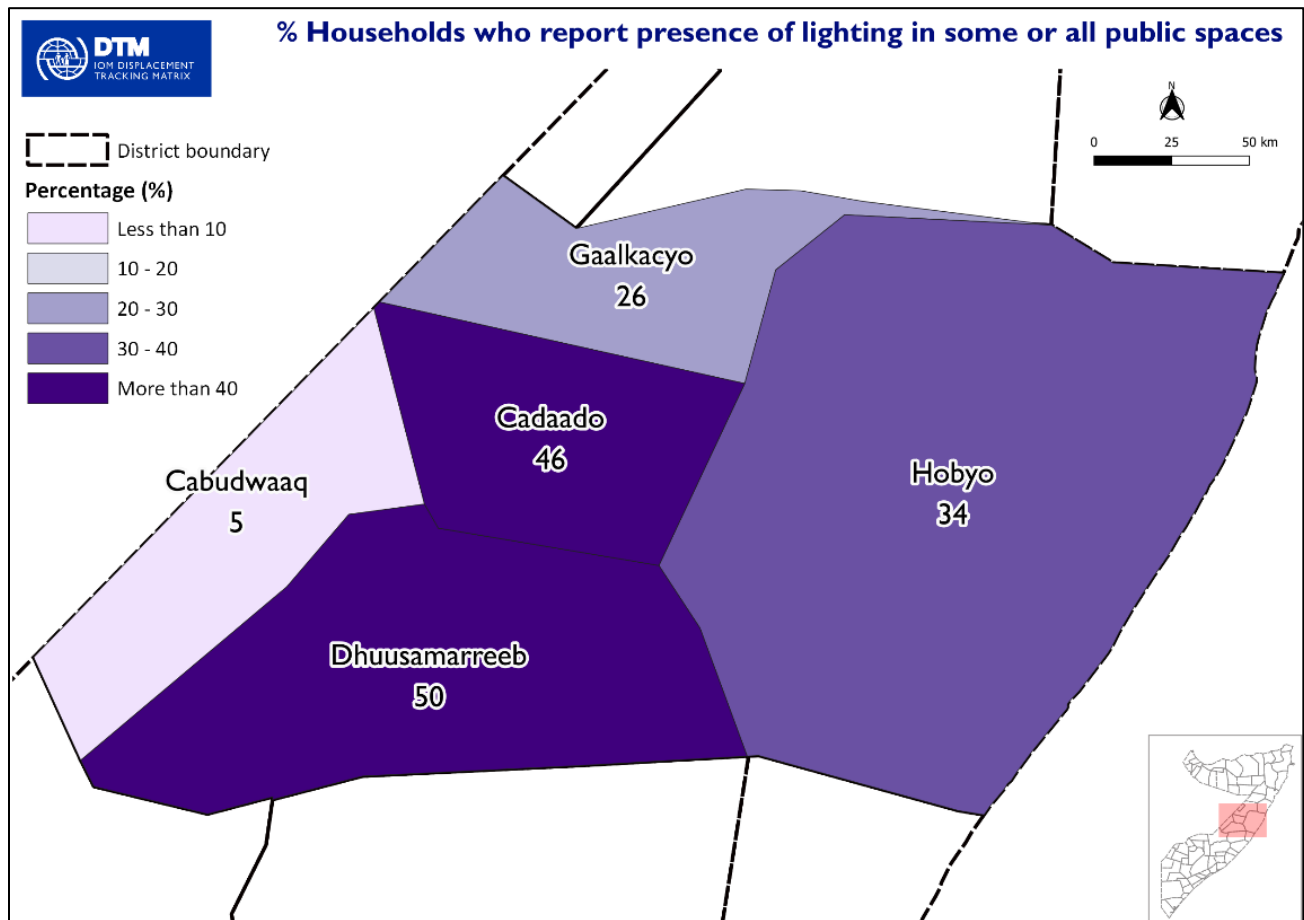
 **SERVICES**

Following decades of civil war and environmental crises, limited public services Somalia are recognized as a key driver of vulnerability – and Galmudug is no exception. Households were asked a question on the availability of public lighting as a proxy for key services in the community.

## PUBLIC LIGHTING

Respondents were asked whether public lighting exists nearby their home, aimed at understanding the presence of key basic services that promote community safety – especially for women and girls. Overall, less than half of the households (39%) reported public lighting in the community. As displayed below, lighting varies across districts, with relatively high coverage in Dhusamarreeb (50%) and Cadaado (46%), contrasting with lower coverage in Hobyo (34%), Gaalkacyo (26%) – and concerningly poor prevalence in Cabudwaaq (5%).

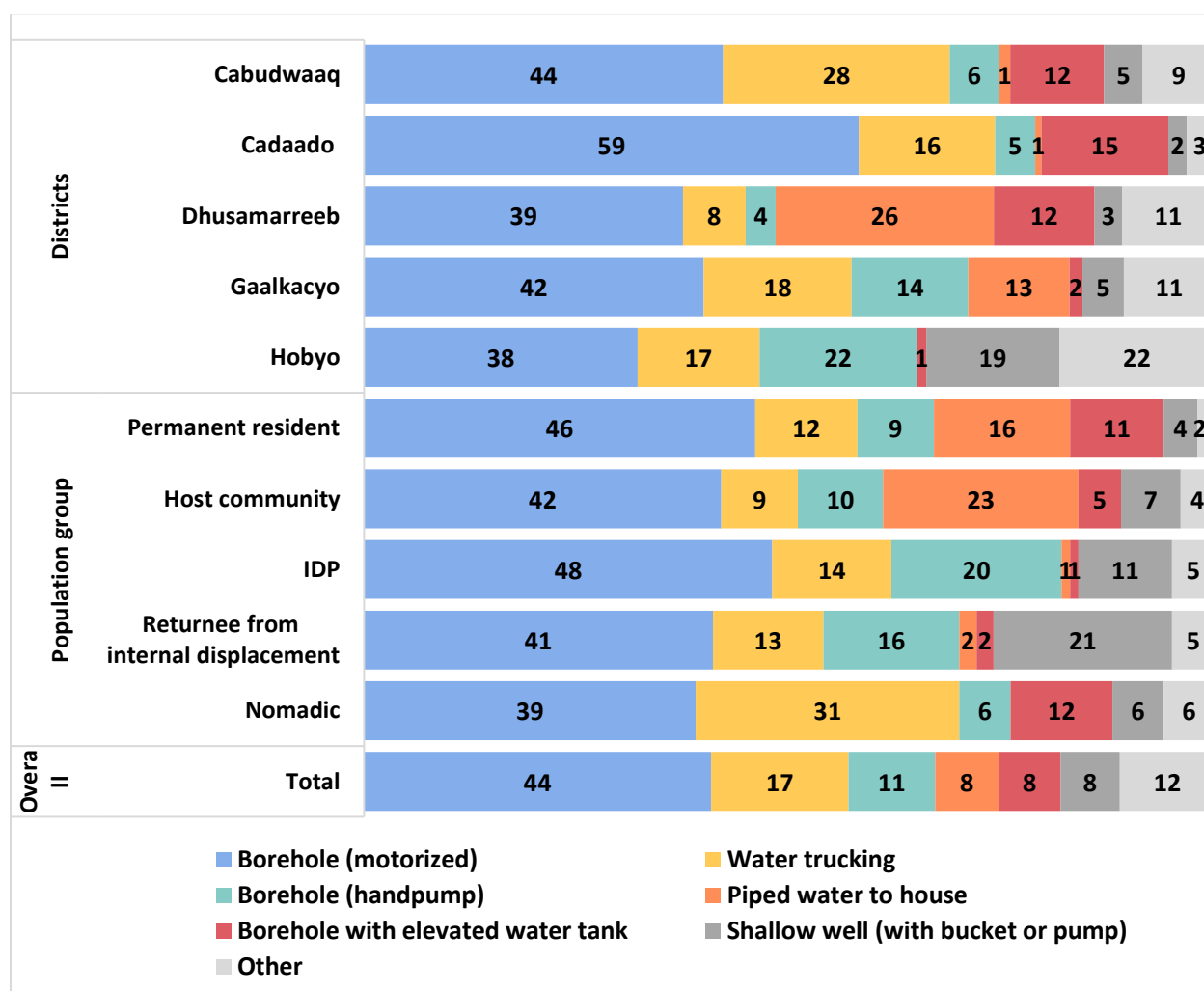
Map 6: Presence of public lighting in some or all spaces of the community





Households were asked about the main water sources they rely on. Overall, 44% use motorized boreholes, 17% rely on water trucking, and 11% use boreholes with a handpump. Other water sources such as piped water to the house (8%), boreholes with an elevated tank (8%) and shallow wells (8%) are less common. While rates of using motorized boreholes do not vary significantly between districts or population groups, water trucking does – relied on by 28% of households in Cabudwaaq, with 31% percent of nomadic households using this service. Otherwise, households in Dhusaamareeb (26%) are most likely to use piped water connected to their homes, with host communities most likely to benefit from this type of water system (23%).

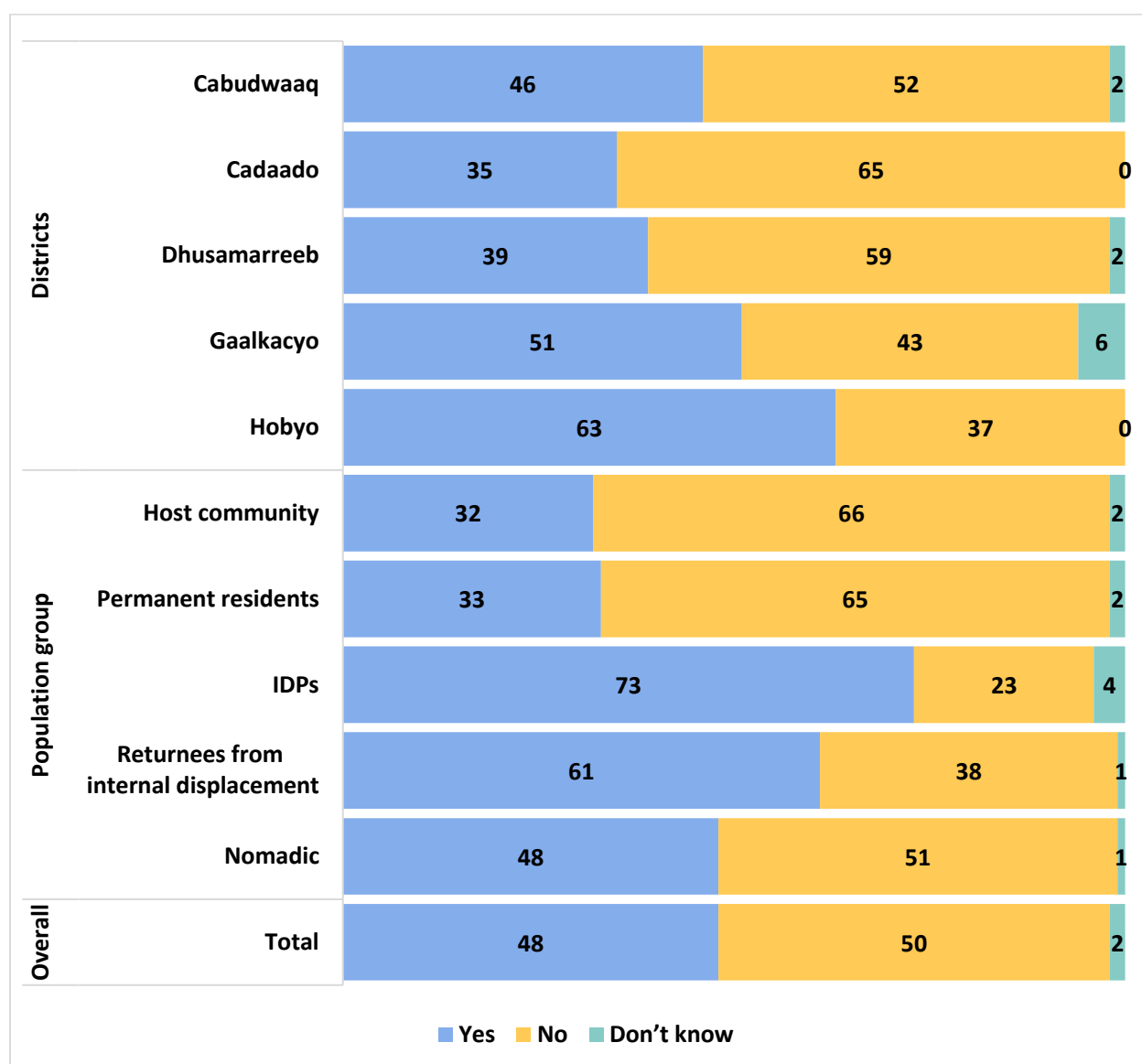
Figure 34: Main water sources used by households (%)



## INSUFFICIENT WATER IN THE PAST 3 MONTHS

Respondents were also asked if their households have experienced challenges accessing sufficient water for drinking in the past three months. Concerningly, 48% of all households indicated this was the case – with those in Hobyo (63%) more likely to face this challenge. Also of concern, as many as 73% of all IDP households reported experiencing severe water shortages, with returnees from internal displacement (61%) also over-represented on this important vulnerability metric.

Figure 35: Households who have experienced insufficient drinking water in the past 3 months (%)

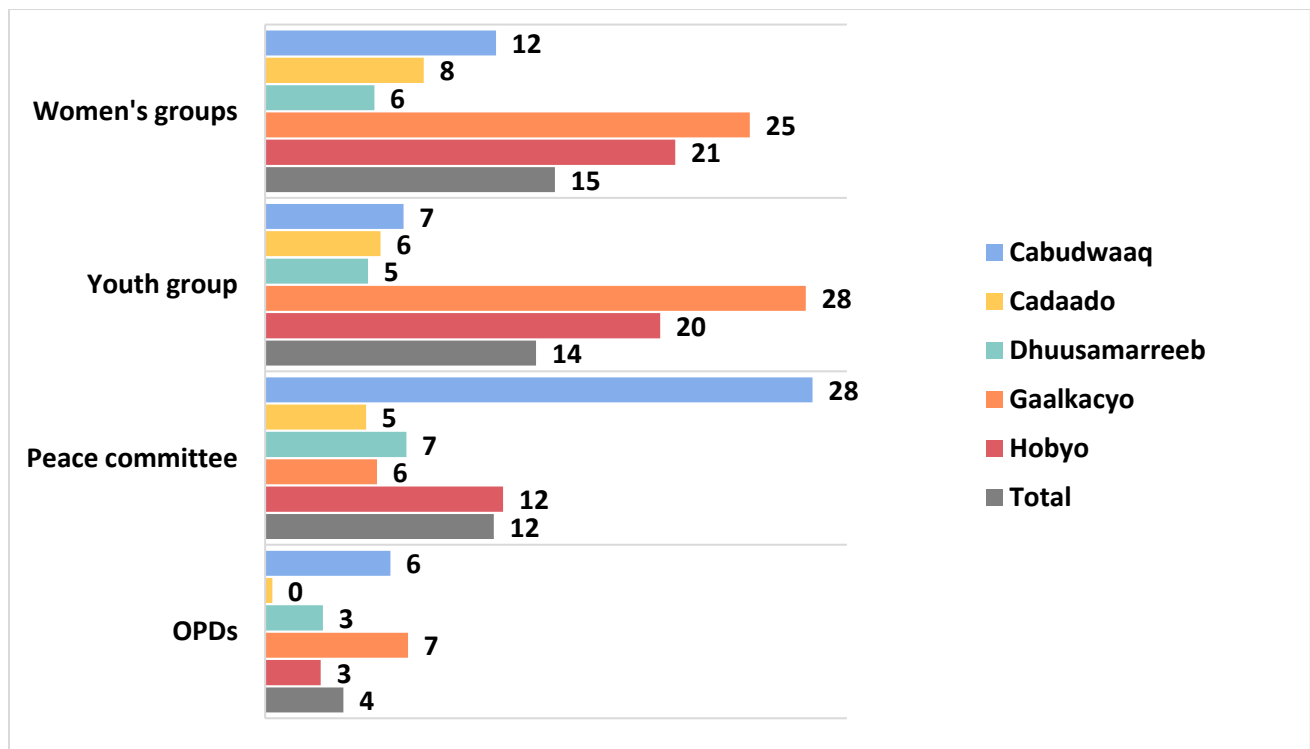


The survey included a range of questions related to social cohesion and safety in the community. These questions concerned involvement in community groups, experiences of discrimination, experiences of conflict and violence, as well as levels of trust in the Somali National Army (SNA).

### INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY GROUPS

As displayed in the below graph, rates of participation in groups varied significantly across districts. Overall, 47% of households participated in at least one group, with the most common type women’s groups (15%), followed by youth groups (14%), peace committees (12%) and Organization of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) (4%). Notably, groups for women and youth are more prevalent in Gaalkacyo (25% and 28% respectively), while peace committees are far more common in Cabudwaaq (28%).

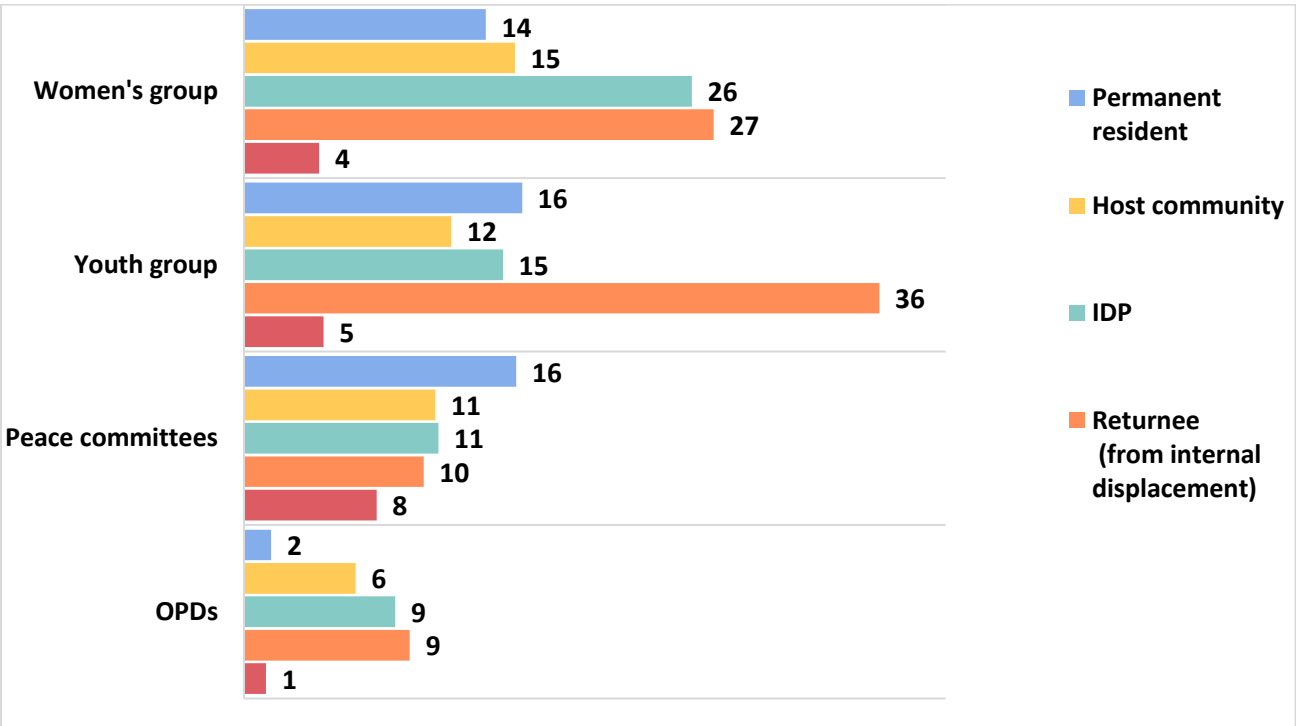
Figure 36: Household participation in different types of community groups, by district (%)<sup>28</sup>



<sup>28</sup> Respondents were able to select multiple options, therefore responses equal more than 100%

Observing rates of participation in groups also varies according to population group. Returnees from internal displacement and IDPs are most likely to participate in at least one group, at 75% and 64% respectively. In particular, women’s groups are joined by more returnees (27%) and IDPs (26%), while rates of returnee participation in youth groups is also high (36%).<sup>29</sup>

**Figure 37: Household participation in different types of community groups, by population group (%)**

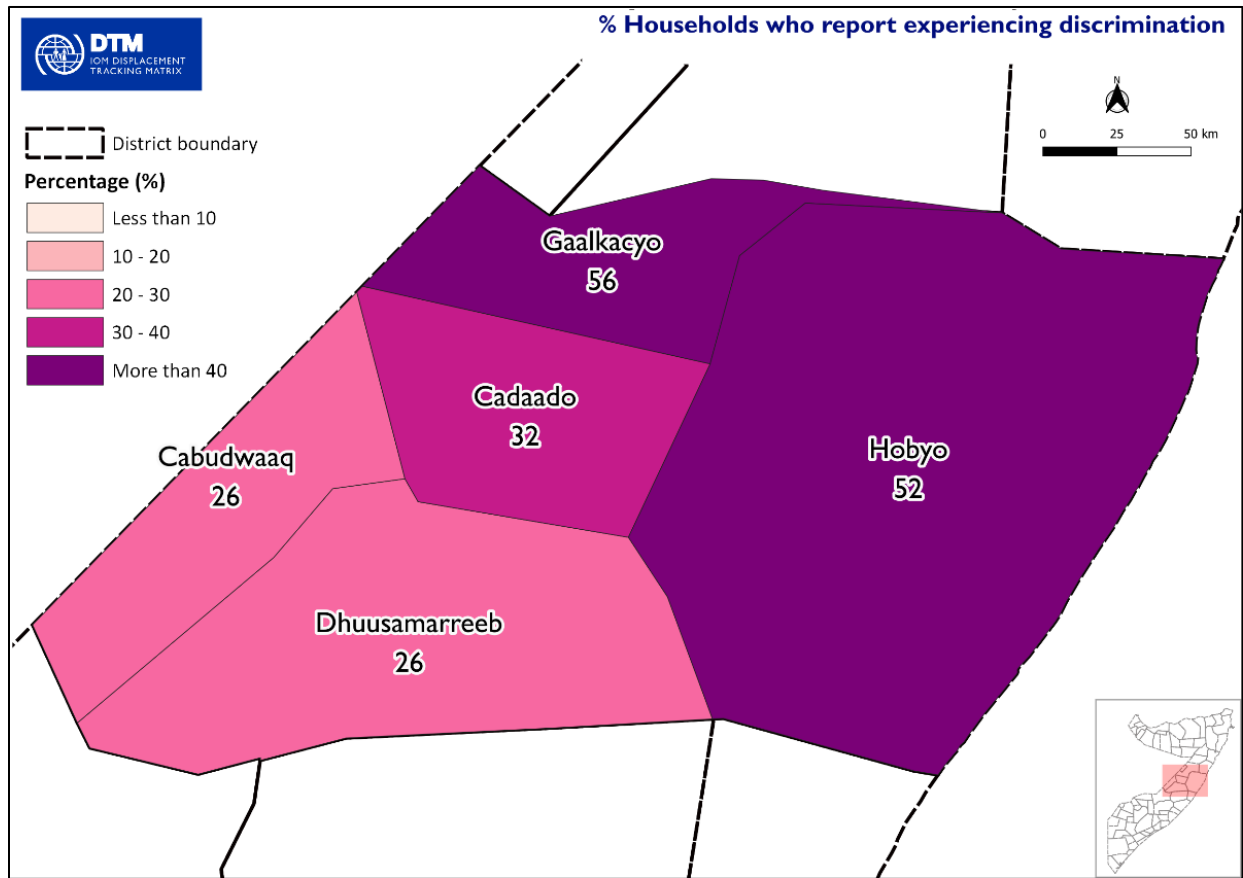


**DISCRIMINATION**

All households were asked about experiences of discrimination. Twenty-six per cent of all households feel they have been discriminated against when accessing employment, while other areas include healthcare (14%), education (12%) and justice (3%). Households who have experienced at least one type of discrimination varies across districts, ranging from highs of 56% and 52% in Gaalkacyo and Hobyo to lows of 26% in each of Cabudwaaq and Dhusamarreeb. Refer to the map below.

<sup>29</sup> Respondents were able to select multiple options, therefore responses equal more than 100%

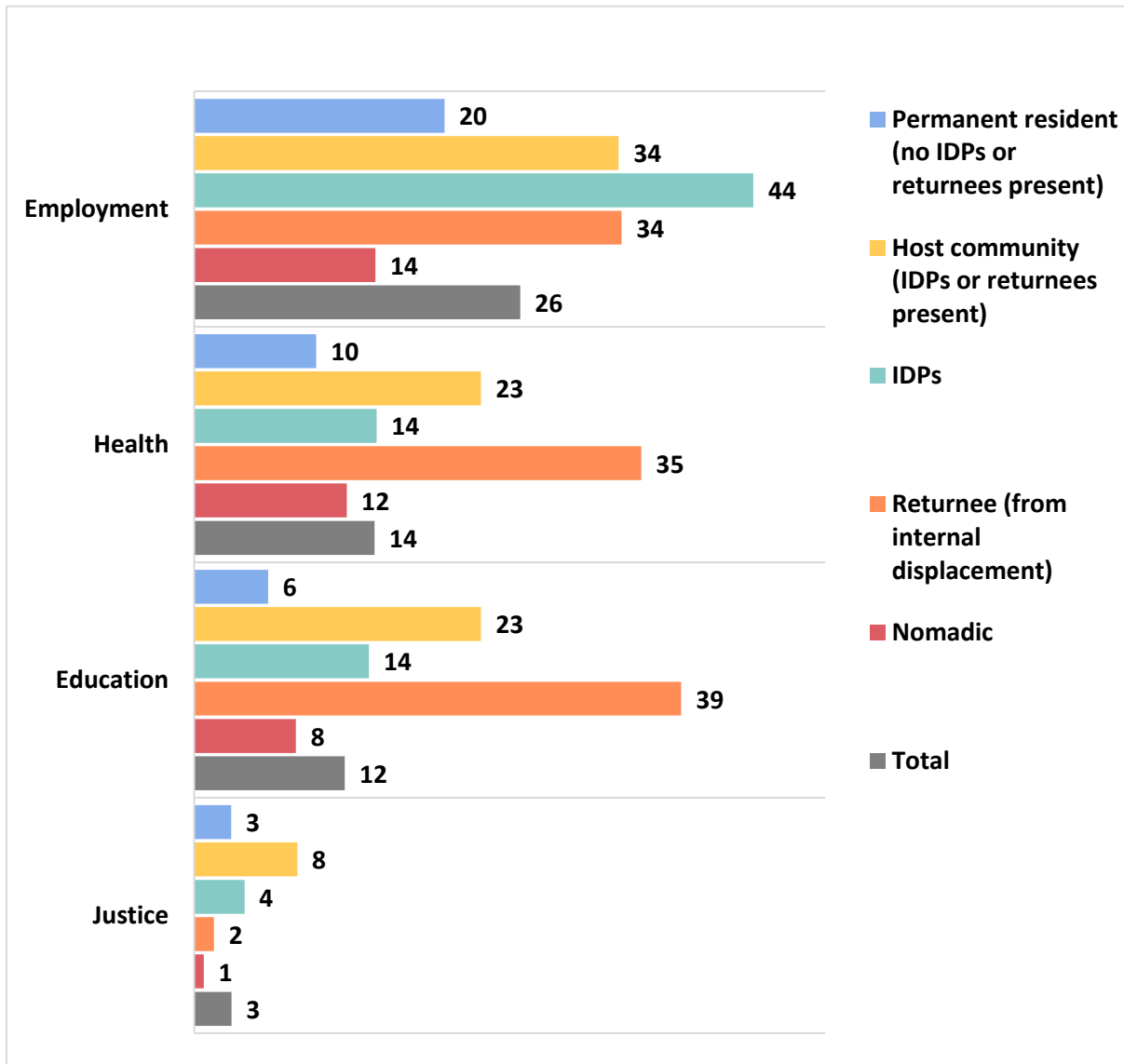
Map 6: Households who report experiencing any form of discrimination (%)



Discrimination rates also vary between population groups. IDPs are most likely to experience discrimination, especially in regards to employment (44%), while returnees face discrimination across employment (34%), healthcare (35%) and education (39%). No differences were recorded between gender of the head of the household.

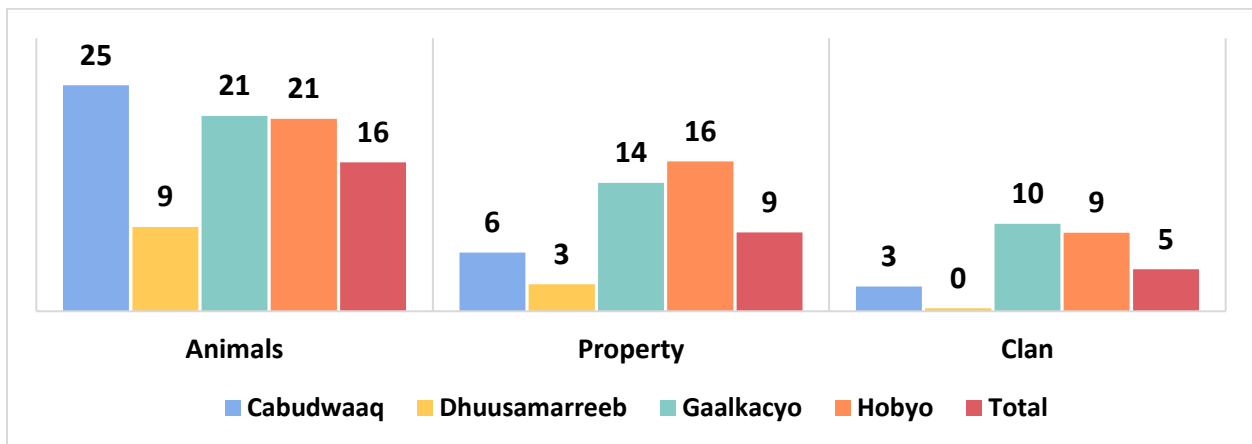


Figure 38: Types of discrimination experienced by households, by population group (%)



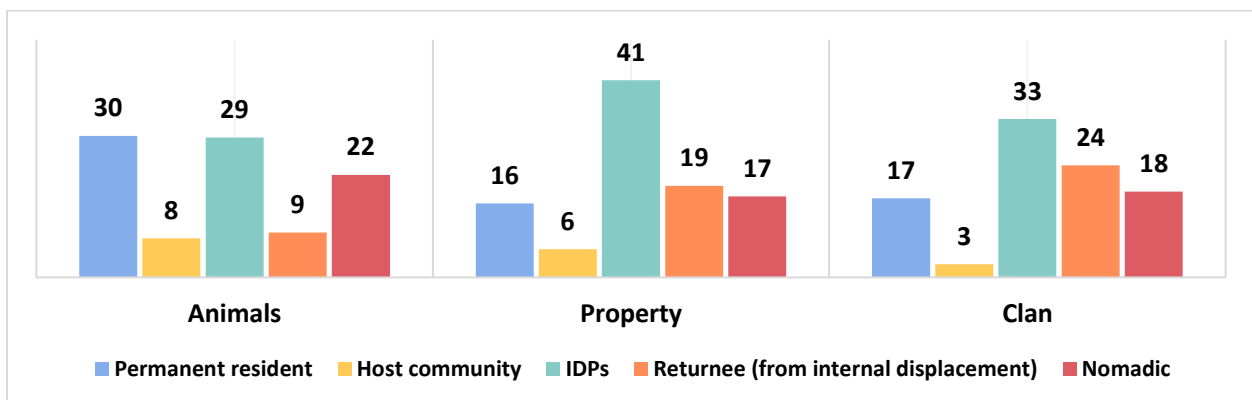
Households were asked if they have experienced in the past year any conflict or disputes related to animals, property or clans. Overall, 16% have been involved in such incidents over animals, 9% over property, and 5% over clan issues. At district level the main source of conflict is over animals in Cabudwaaq (25%), Gaalkacyo (21%) and Hobyo (9%).<sup>30</sup>

Figure 39: Sources of conflict or disputes experienced by households, by district (%)



As with many other indicators, sources of violence vary according to population group. By far, IDPs are most vulnerable to disputes or violence – especially over property (41%), as well as clan issues (33%) and animals (29%).

Figure 40: Sources of conflict or disputes experienced by households, by population group (%)



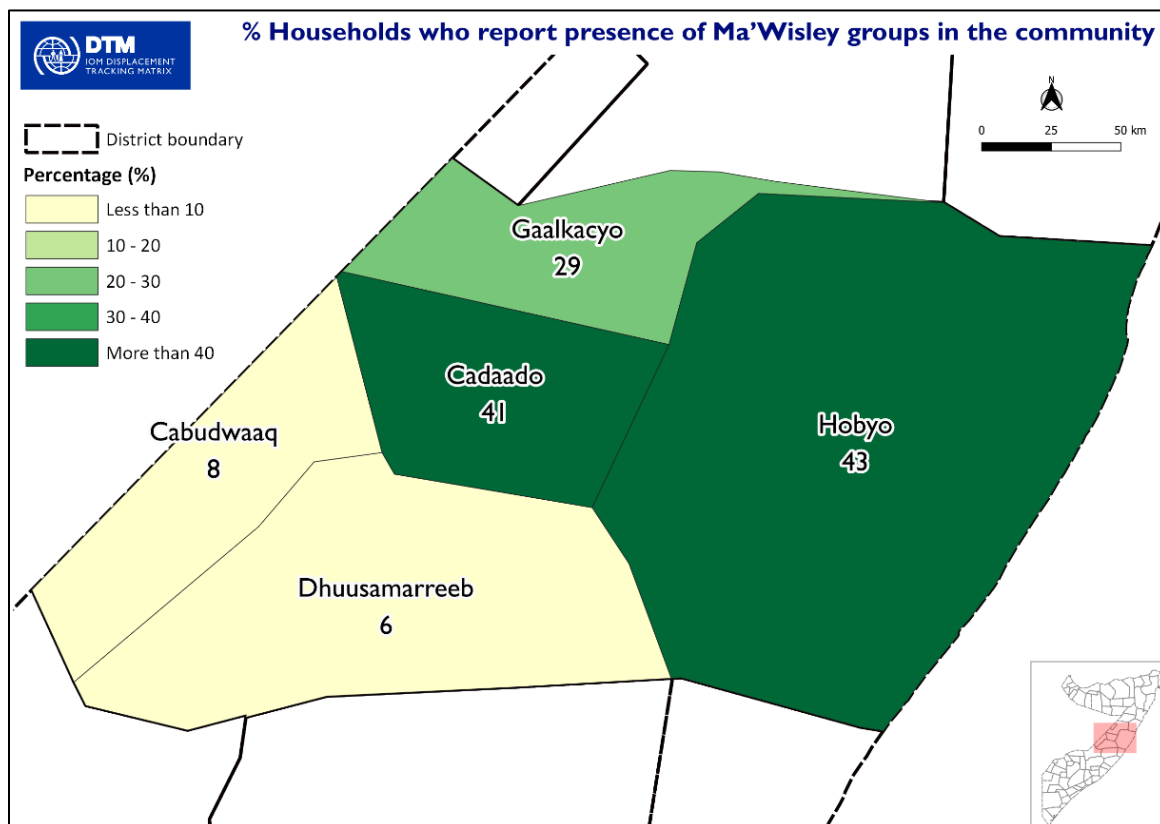
<sup>30</sup> Respondents were able to select multiple options, therefore responses equal more than 100%

## PRESENCE OF MA'WISLEY GROUPS

In 2023, the Federal Government of Somalia is seeking to unite the country to defeat non-state armed actors.<sup>31</sup> This involves bringing together historically unrelated militia groups – known as *Ma'wisley* – behind the common cause of retaking land that is under occupation by these extremist groups.

To understand the prevalence of *Ma'wisley* groups, households were asked if they are present in the community. One in four households (26%) indicated this was the case, although they are far more common in Mudug region to the north – reported by 41% in Hobyo, 43% in Cadaado and 29% in Gaalkacyo. *Ma'wisley* groups are less common in Galgaduud's districts of Cabudwaaq and Dhusamarreeb, reported by just 8% and 6% of households respectively.

Map 7: Households who report the presence of Ma'wisley groups in the community (%)

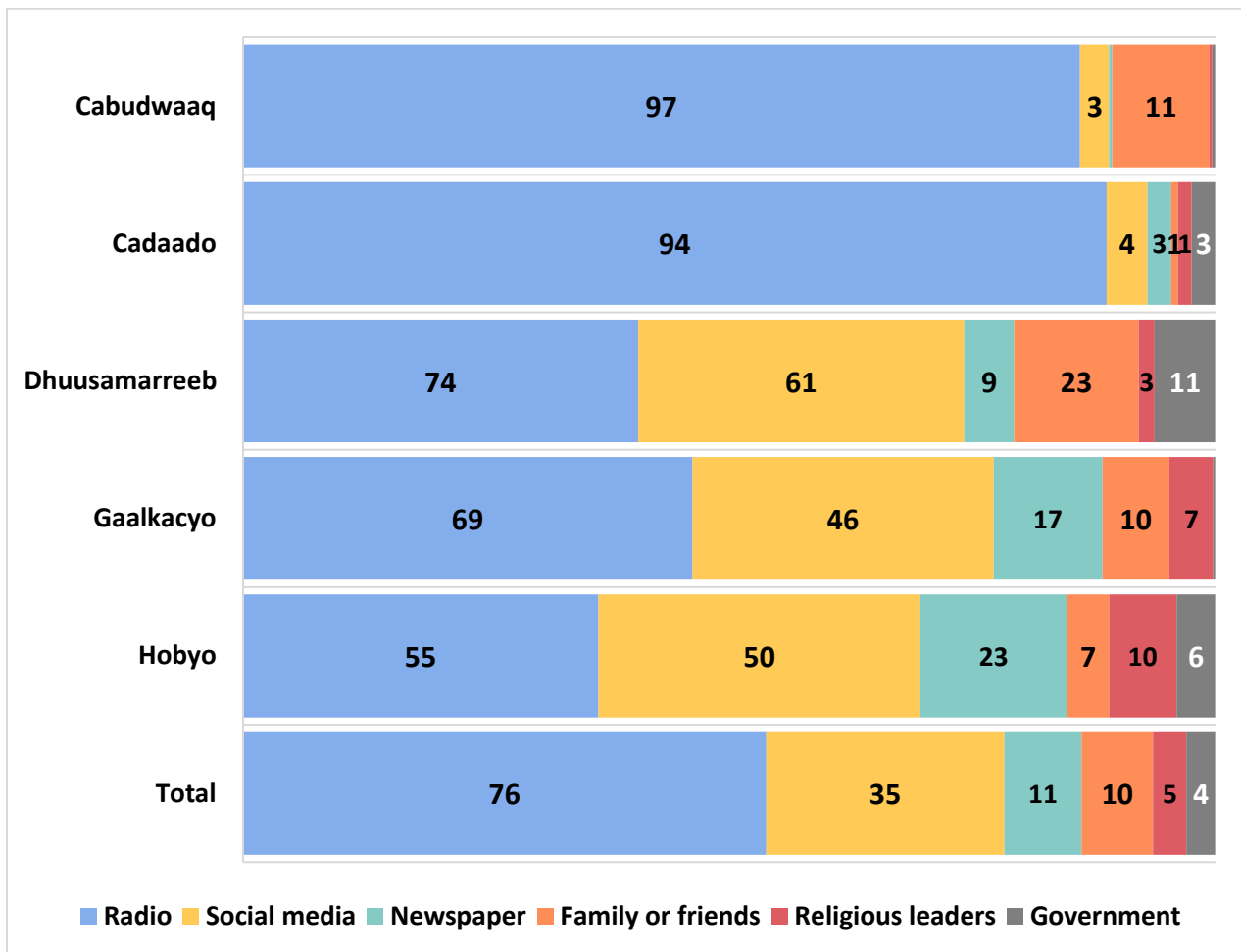


<sup>31</sup> Brookings Institute (2023). Somalia's Challenges in 2023. See: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/somalias-challenges-in-2023/>

## INFORMATION SOURCES

As with much of Somalia, households in Galmudug most commonly attain information via the radio (76%), while social media is also common (35%).<sup>32</sup> Families get their information to a lesser extent from the newspaper (11%) or through family and friends (10%) – and religious leaders (5%) or government offices (4%) are not relied upon widely information sources. As seen below, radio is even more common in Cabudwaaq and Cadaado compared with the other three districts – owing to most households residing in rural areas in these districts, with poor access to electricity and internet.

Figure 41: Trusted information sources for households, by district (%)



<sup>32</sup> Respondents were able to select more than one choice, therefore answers equal more than 100%

## MOVEMENT INTENTIONS

Households were asked about their movement intentions for the next 12 months. The broad majority of households (71%) intend to remain in the current location, while 21% plan to move elsewhere and 8% are undecided.

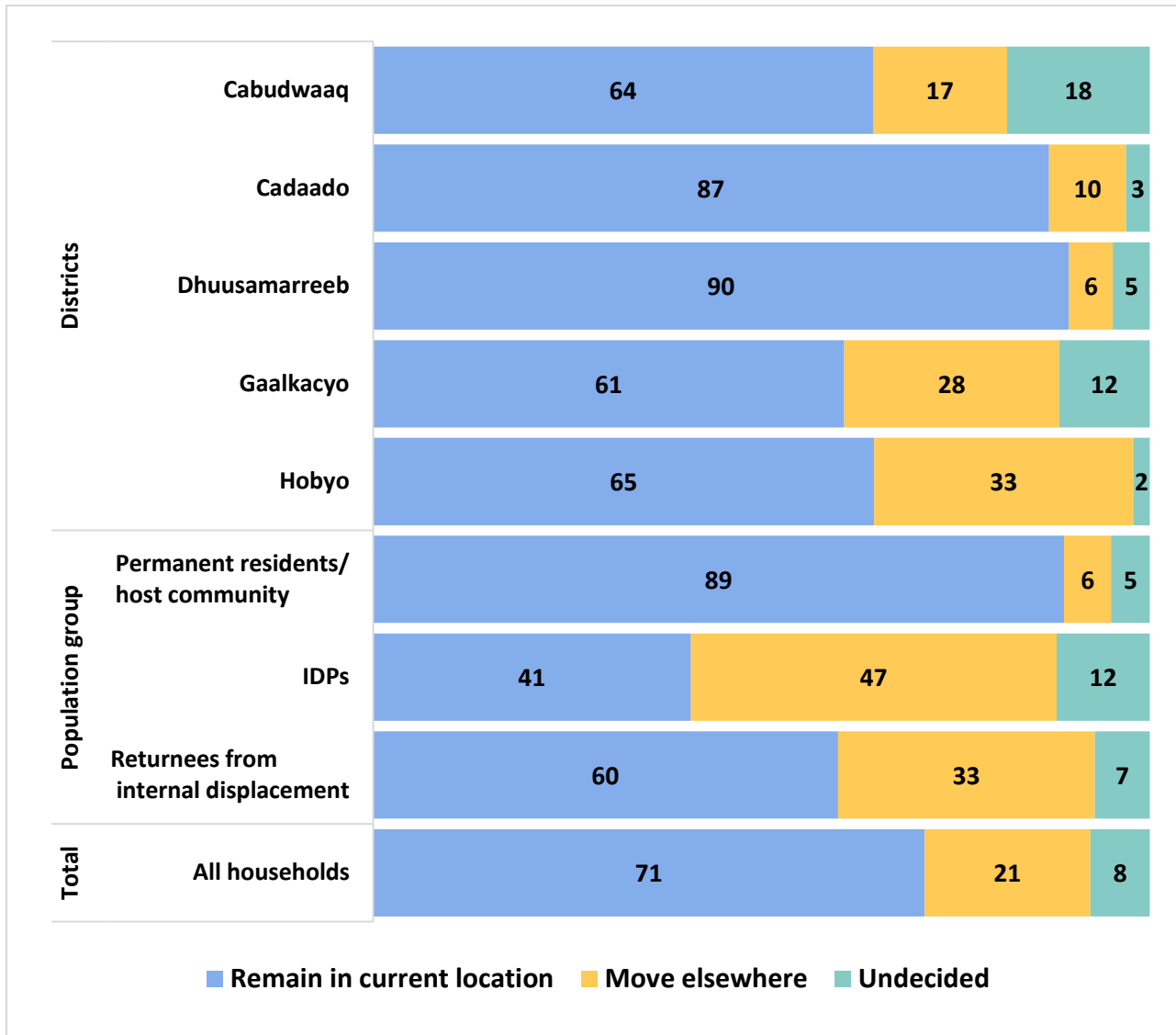
As displayed in the below chart, the intentions vary by district as well as population group.<sup>33</sup> Households in Hobyo (33%) and Gaalkacyo (28%) are more likely to move in the coming 12 months, while almost half of all IDPs (47%) intend to move elsewhere – mainly to a different location within the district (37%), followed by another location within Somalia (8%), and 2% abroad. As for returnees from from internal displacement, one in three (33%) also intend to move to a different location, with 18% planning to move elsewhere in the district, 11% elsewhere within the country, and 4% overseas.

This high rate of intention to continue moving amongst displacement-affected communities highlights the dynamic situation in Galmudug, and the pressing need for sustainable solutions to displacement across the state and more widely in Somalia.

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<sup>33</sup> Note that the movement intentions of nomadic households is not included in this table, as it is assumed they will continue to move in the coming 12 months

Figure 42: Household movement intentions by district and population group (%)





Despite significant stabilization progress made since the merging of Galgaduud and Mudug regions in 2015, ongoing security threats and worsening environmental disasters have combined to create a persistently fragile environment in Somalia's Galmudug state. Against this backdrop, this report has shown that the conditions, needs and vulnerabilities of households state due to these converging challenges vary significantly across districts and by population group – including IDPs, returnees, nomadic pastoralists, and permanent residents.

Implemented during Somalia's worst drought for at least 40 years, this research has also illustrated the acute needs of displacement-affected households and pastoralists compared with those who are not on the move. Higher vulnerability ratings across key metrics - especially livelihoods, food and water access – have demonstrated the dire conditions of these groups, and the pressing need for durable solutions amongst IDPs and returnees. Increased security and social cohesion issues in Mudug region are also important factors in addressing the acute needs of these vulnerable groups.

Implemented under the *Deegan Bile* programme, data from this assessment aims to support IOM and other partners in the design of evidence-base programing that seeks to address the needs and vulnerabilities of families Galmudug – in support of the government's efforts to break the climate-conflict cycle across the state.

Below is a summary of key findings under each of this assessment's thematic areas. Following this, a list of recommendations to consider for filling remaining information gaps related to the climate-conflict cycle across the state and more widely.

### SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

#### DISPLACEMENT AND MOBILITY STATUS

- As with many parts of Somalia, Galmudug state is highly dynamic - with many households on the move or having returned home.

- One in five households (21%) are IDPs and 8% have returned home from internal displacement – while a further 25% are nomadic in search of pasture and water for animals. Very few (<1%) households are migrants or returnees from abroad.
- Gaalkacyo district hosts the highest proportion of IDPs (44%), followed by Hobyo (31%). Returnees are most common in the same two districts: Gaalkacyo (12%) and Hobyo (31%). The districts of Cadaado and Cabudwaaq host a significant number of nomadic households, at 51% and 41% respectively.

## SHELTER TYPE

- Permanent structures made of solid materials (i.e. bricks) are the most common type of shelter in Galmudug (33%), followed by *buuls* (25%) and CGI/tin shelters (21%).
  - Households in Cadaado (73%) are most likely to reside in permanent shelters, while *buuls* are most common in Cabudwaaq (40%) and Gaalkacyo (39%). Gaalkacyo also hosts the highest proportion of tent-dwelling households (27%) – owing to the large IDP population in that district.

## EDUCATION

- The highest level of education attained by households is most likely through madrassas or other koranic schools (58%). Other types are less common, with just 18% having completed primary school – and even fewer finishing secondary school (8%) or university (3%).
  - Madrassas/koranic schools are most common in Cadaado (84%), while households in Dhusamarreeb and Hobyo are most likely to have completed secondary school (14% and 10% respectively).

## LIVELIHOODS

- The most common source of income is selling animals, reported by 59% of households, followed by selling animal products such as milk or meat (26%). Crop farming is far less common (3%) – with Galmudug families instead relying on fresh produce from



neighboring Hiraan region. Casual labor (23%) and support from family or friends (12%) are also most common income sources.

- Casual labor is most common in Dhusamarreeb (reported by 58% of households) – while families in Cabudwaaq and Dhusamarreb rely on family or friends at above-average rates (both 26%).
- Female-headed households (\$111 USD) earn less per month than male-headed households (\$117 USD) on average.
- Concerningly, 43% cannot afford food and a further 39% cannot afford basic items such as clothing.
  - Households in Gaalkacyo district are most likely to struggle with affording food (54%).
  - Additionally, IDPs (54%), returnees (56%) and nomadic pastoralist households (53%) are far more likely to face challenges affording food compared with permanent residents (30%) or host community members (24%).
- Also of concern, in terms of coping strategies to manage low income, one in five households (20%) indicated that children eat less food – with a further 16% saying adults eat less.

## MARKET ANALYSIS (BUSINESS OWNERSHIP)

- Of all surveyed households, 7% own a business. Amongst this group, the most common types of businesses are in outdoor markets – including stalls that sell non-food items (26%), fruit and vegetables (25%) and animal products (18%).
  - These businesses employ an average of six staff – with one out of six from the same family as the business owner.
- A third of businesses (33%) are registered with the government, with 22% registered with business representative organizations (22%).
- Almost all businesses (94%) source their goods and supplies from within Somalia.
- A third of businesses (32%) indicated it is challenging to find skills for the business.

## PASTORALISM AND FARMING

- While just 3% of households farm land for crops, many more are reliant on pastoralism for survival. Eighty-five per cent own at least one animal – especially goats (65%), followed by camels (12%) and cows (10%).
  - Households in Cabudwaaq are most likely to own goats (81%) and camels (29%), with cows most common in Hobyo (21%).
- Forty-four per cent of households indicated seeing a decline in their quantity of animals over the past five years. The most common reasons for this are no food (75%) or water (65%) – while 45% reported losing animals to disease.
- Eighty-five per cent of households reported not owning any productive livelihoods assets to support pastoralism or farming.

## FOOD

- Most households get their food from the local market (77%), while 20% rely on food aid and 11% receive donated food from family or community members. Just 4% grow their own food.
- Concerningly, 52% of households indicated they had experienced times in the past three months when they did not have any food to feed the family.
  - IDPs and returnees are even more likely to have experienced this vulnerability, at 80% and 61% respectively.
  - Additionally, female-headed households (59%) are more likely than males (47%) to have experienced complete food shortages.
- Households regularly need to travel more than one hour to access the market. This was reported by 40% of all households – with 60% and 59% in Dhusamarreeb and Cabudwaaq indicating this is the case.

## ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND ADAPTATION

- Two thirds of households (66%) have observed a reduction in rainfall over the past 10 years, with a further 15% indicating hotter weather.

- The most common adaptation measures to adapt to the warming climate include seasonal migration (reported by 20% households), adapted livelihoods (18%), tree-planting (13%), and use of water storage (12%).

## SERVICES

- Less than half of all households indicated the presence of public lighting in the community (39%) – a proxy for general services. Concerningly, only 5% reported public lighting nearby their home in Cabudwaaq district. A greater proportion of households reported public lighting in Dhusamarreeb (50%), Cadaado (46%), Hobyo (34%), and Gaalkacyo (26%).

## WATER

- By far the most common type of water source is motorized boreholes (44% of households), with 17% relying on water trucking and 11% using boreholes with a handpump.
- Concerningly, 48% of households reported facing insufficient drinking water in the past three months. Families in Hobyo are most likely to experience this problem at 63%.
  - As with other key vulnerability metrics, there is a strong link between displacement status and water shortages: as many as 73% of households reported facing water shortages in the past three months, with 61% of returnees from internal displacement indicating the same.

## SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFETY

- Across all districts, 16% of households have been involved in conflict or disputes over animals, 9% over property and 5% over clan issues.
  - Households have experienced conflict over animals especially in Cabudwaaq (25%), Gaalkacyo (21%) and Hobyo (9%).

- Permanent residents (30%) and IDPs (29%) are most likely to have fought over animals – with IDPs also facing the highest rates of conflict over property (41%) and clan issues (33%).
- One in four households (26%) are involved in *Ma'wisley* groups – historically unrelated militia who are uniting with government forces to reclaim land that is occupied by non-state armed actors.
  - These groups are far more common in Mudug region to the north, with their presence reported by 41% of households in Hobyo, 43% in Cadaado and 29% in Gaalkacyo. Just 8% and 6% indicated this in Galgaduud region's of Cabudwaaq and Dhusamarreeb.
- Additionally, a quarter of households (26%) have experienced discrimination when accessing employment, as well as healthcare (14%), education (12%), and justice (3%).
  - Households in Hobyo (52%) and Gaalkacyo are most likely to face discrimination.
  - IDPs are most likely to face discrimination with regard to employment (44%), while returnees from displacement face it when accessing health (35%) or education (39%).

## INFORMATION SOURCES

- By far, the most common source of information is via the radio (76%), followed by social media (35%). Attaining information through the newspaper (11%) or through family and friends (10%) is less common.

## MOVEMENT INTENTIONS

- As for movement intentions in the next 12 months, 71% of households intend to remain the same location, while 21% intend to move elsewhere and 8% are undecided – although this varies significantly between population groups.
  - Amongst permanent residents and host communities, 89% intend to remain in their current location. By contrast, just 41% of IDPs plan to remain – with 47% intending to move elsewhere.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FILLING INFORMATION GAPS

As demonstrated throughout this report, quantitative data is important for understanding the conditions, needs and vulnerabilities of households living in fragile environments – including Somalia’s Galmudug state. However, as outlined in the limitations section report, quantitative tools (including the one used for this assessment) are limited in their ability to understand *why* conditions are comparatively better or worse between different areas and population groups.

Considering qualitative research activities – including focus group discussions or open-ended surveys with priority groups – would assist in contributing to the growing body of research on the climate-conflict cycle in Somalia. Below is a list of recommendations to consider for filling outstanding gaps in Galmudug, which are structured around the key takeaways from the assessment.<sup>34</sup>

- **VULNERABLE GROUPS:**
  - Qualitative research may assist in filling key information gaps that are unable to be addressed through quantitative data collection. With a focus on the most vulnerable groups as identified in this assessment – IDPs, returnees, and nomadic pastoralists – focus group discussions using semi-structured surveys could assist in understanding their key vulnerabilities.
  - In particular, focusing on challenges with accessing livelihoods, food and water would help to understand more specifically the barriers that are faced – and develop approaches to address them. Ensuring the participation of women in such research would make sure their views are represented and accounted for in the development of programmatic responses to these issues.

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<sup>34</sup> Refer to the Executive Summary for a summary of key takeaways from the assessment

- **A PRESSING NEED FOR DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR IDPs AND RETURNEES**
  - The durable solutions related indicators presented in this report align with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework for Durable Solutions for IDPs.<sup>35</sup> To strengthen analysis in order to measure progress and achievement of solutions amongst IDPs and returnees, it is recommended to aggregate the relevant data points presented in this report in line with the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS).<sup>36</sup> This would allow for a globally standardized approach to data analysis and presentation to inform durable solutions interventions.
  - Additionally, qualitative research with a focus on understanding reasons why certain groups face barriers to long-term solutions are recommended to be implemented. This could include understanding the impact of certain vulnerability factors that create barriers to the realization of solutions, such as people living with a disability.
- **RISKS OF CONFLICT AND SOCIAL COHESION CHALLENGES IN MUDUG REGION**
  - To better understand the drivers of conflict and cohesion challenges in Mudug, detailed conflict analysis would assist in strengthening evidence-based targeting of vulnerable groups. In particular, understanding the ongoing security and cohesion impact of joint government-*Ma'wisley* efforts to reclaim occupied areas – in addition to the recent effects of the occupations themselves – would assist in laying the basis for needs-based protection and stabilization interventions.
  - Additionally, quantitative conflict analysis would be well complemented by qualitative data collection amongst crisis-affected communities, aimed at better understanding the effects of non-state actor occupations and the effects of instability on access to key services. It could also focus on better understanding why Mudug households face higher levels of discrimination and exclusion when accessing key services – to inform interventions that seek to address and prevent future conflict.

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<sup>35</sup> IASC (2010). Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons. See:

<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/other/iasc-framework-durable-solutions-internally-displaced-persons>

<sup>36</sup> EGRIS (2020). International Recommendations on IDP Statistics. See:

<https://egrisstats.org/recommendations/international-recommendations-on-idp-statistics-iris/>



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