



Protection Analysis Update September 2022



SOMALIA



Protection Analysis Update

September 2022

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Context	3
3. Priority Protection Risks	6
Risk 1 – Systematic Protection Risks & Violations	6
Risk 2 – Child Protection Risks	8
Risk 3 – Sexual Violence And Intimate Partner Violence	11
Risk 4 – Forced Eviction	14
Risk 5 – Impact of Explosive Hazards	16
4. Recommended Actions	19



1. INTRODUCTION

A fourth consecutive failed rainy season has pushed parts of Somalia to the **brink of famine**. Throughout 2022, **severe drought, conflict, climatic shocks, and forced evictions** have had a cumulative devastating humanitarian impact across the country, and represented major drivers of displacement that have exacerbated an already complex and protracted humanitarian crisis. In response to this critical situation, a national IASC Scale-Up for the famine prevention and drought response has been activated as of August 2022.

In this crisis context, the Somalia Protection Analysis Update (PAU) brings attention to prevalent protection risks currently being faced by Somali communities, namely:

1. Systematic Protection Risks & Violations
2. Child Protection Risks
3. Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence
4. Forced Evictions
5. Impact of Explosive Hazards

The document provides a set of key recommendations from the Protection Cluster and its four Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) on how to address and mitigate the effects of these risks throughout the humanitarian response.

Methodology

The scope and methodology of this Protection Analysis Update was jointly agreed by the Protection Cluster and the four AoRs of Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence, Explosive Hazards, and Housing, Land, and Property in May 2022 based on global protection analysis guiding documents as well as the GPC's Protection Analytical Framework (PAF).

The document is based on both quantitative and qualitative analysis from existing secondary data sources, protection assessments and reports covering events from January to September 2022, including data from key country-wide protection monitoring tools – the Somalia Protection Monitoring System (SPMS), Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) and the Eviction Information Portal. In addition, the document also builds upon the first-hand expertise of Protection Cluster and AoR partners, state-level coordinators, protection experts and key stakeholders at national and sub-national levels through a questionnaire specifically designed to bridge existing information gaps.

Limitations

Data available in Somalia and Somaliland is predominantly limited to areas that are currently accessible by humanitarian actors. Areas in Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, and Southwest States under Al-Shabaab control, as well as areas in Puntland under Islamic State control, are currently inaccessible to the humanitarian community. As a result, this document has been built based on available data and is unable to reflect on an analysis of the humanitarian situation in these inaccessible areas.

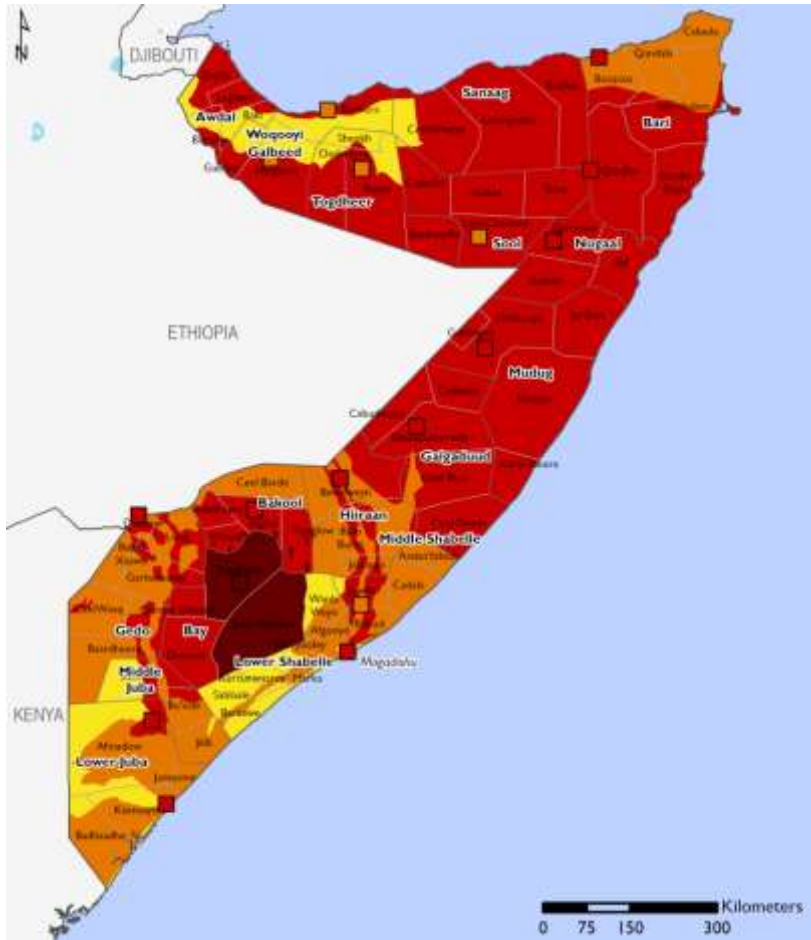
2. CONTEXT

Severe Drought & Risk of Famine

Following a fourth consecutive failed rainy season, the worst in the last 40 years, parts of Somalia are currently facing the risk of famine. The current drought, one of the driest ever on record, has had a devastating impact on livelihoods, food security, and access to water, and has generated a sharp increase on nutrition insecurity for communities across the country.



October 2022 – January 2023 Projection¹

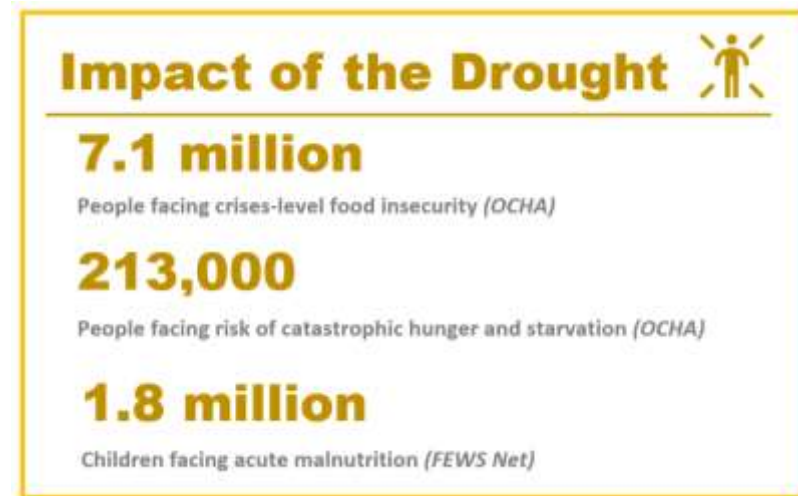


IPC v3.1 Acute Food Insecurity Phase

1: Minimal 2: Stressed 3: Crisis 4: Emergency 5: Famine

In May 2022, the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit in Somalia first issued an alert warning that parts of the country were at risk of famine (IPC Phase 5), in a context where levels of acute malnutrition and mortality continue to rise.² It is estimated that a total of **7.1 million** people are currently facing **crisis-level food insecurity**, while **213,000** people are at risk of **catastrophic hunger and starvation**.³ As a result, a national IASC Scale-Up of the famine prevention and drought response has been activated as of August 2022.

Based on integrated surveys from the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) conducted during May-July 2022, as well as the subsequent IPC acute malnutrition analysis conducted in August, it is estimated that **1.8 million children** will face **acute malnutrition** between August 2022 and July 2023, including **513,550 children** who are likely to be **severely malnourished**.⁴



¹ Famine Early Warning Systems Network, Aug 2022

² Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit – Somalia, Somalia Food Security Alert, May 2022

³ [Drought Response and Famine Prevention Plan](#), OCHA Somalia, 2022

⁴ Famine Early Warning Systems Network, Aug 2022



Monitoring Figures – January to September 2022

4,459

Reported protection incidents (*PRMN*)

3,733

Civilians Killed in **2,160** events of violence (*ACLEDA*)

1,405,000

People Internally Displaced (*PRMN*)

926,000 individuals displaced as a result of the **drought**

467,000 individuals displaced due to **conflict, violence and/or insecurity**

125,919

People forcibly evicted (*Eviction Information Portal*)

Large Scale Displacement

During January to September 2022, a total of **1,405,000** individuals were displaced across Somalia.⁵ Of these, a total of **926,000** individuals were displaced as a result of the ongoing **severe drought**, while **467,000** were displaced due to **conflict and insecurity**. In addition, forced eviction continues to represent a cyclical protection concern with a total of **125,919 forced evictions** recorded during this same period, **80%** of these in the Banadir region.⁶

This situation is added to an already entrenched and protracted displacement crisis. The Somalia National Bureau of Statistics estimates that there are currently a total of **2,967,500 internally displaced persons** across the country. Of these, approximately 2 million IDPs reside within Banadir, Hirshabelle, Galmudug, Jubaland, and Southwest State.⁷ In addition, Somalia further hosts a total of 14,968 registered refugees as well as 18,143 asylum seekers, of which 70% are women and children. The majority of these reside within Woqooyi Galbeed region of Somaliland, and Bari region in Puntland.⁸

Conflict, Violence & Insecurity

The security situation from January to September 2022 has remained precarious, with Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG) seizing opportunities to target soldiers from the Somalia National Army (SNA), African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) forces, as well as government personnel and prominent political figures.

Civilians have also been both directly and indirectly affected by indiscriminate physical attacks, clashes and/or use of explosions by NSAG. As of September 2022, a total of **2,160 events of violence** have been reported in Somalia and Somaliland during the course of the year through the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project

⁵ [Protection and Return Monitoring Network \(PRMN\)](#), Sept 2022

⁶ [Eviction Information Portal](#), HPL AoR Sept 2022

⁷ Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, 2022

⁸ Somalia Registered Refugees and Asylum Seekers, UNHCR Somalia



(ACLED), leading to a total of **3,733 persons killed** across the country.⁹ These events have included targeted violence against civilians, battles and armed clashes, as well as explosions and/or remote violence.

Additionally, **inter-clan conflicts** at local district and regional levels, stemming from social injustice, clan-based identity, poverty, as well as resource scarcity, have continued to be a major driver of violence and insecurity throughout the country.

Political Stressors

Delay in the 2021/2022 Somali national elections spawned tense and fragile relations between the President and the Prime Minister, with perceived manipulations of the election outcomes contributing to political uncertainty and fear of election-related violence. Despite these challenges and reports of a non-transparent electoral process, presidential elections were held on the 15th of May 2022.

In Somaliland, however, postponement of the presidential elections originally planned for November 2022 sparked the breakout of deadly protests, with government forces accused of using excessive force to quell the demonstrations. Such election-related disputes between government and opposition parties continue to pose a significant risk of violence against civilians unless a consensus on the way forward is achieved.

Weak Protective Environment

The protection environment in Somalia is characterized by lack of basic services and challenges around access for people in need. The legal and policy frameworks in place are stalled by weak judicial and law enforcement institutions. This is coupled with an overall weak public awareness on rights exacerbated by displacement and

structural discrimination based on gender, ability, as well as clan affiliation.

Limited Humanitarian Access

Humanitarian access continues to present significant challenges, mainly as a result of ongoing conflict and insecurity, affecting the safety of humanitarian workers and their ability to help people in need. In a continuing trend, the highest number of access-related incidents continued to be focused in Galmudug, Hirshabelle and South-West States. Approximately **900,000 people** live in areas controlled by Non-State Armed Groups, with serious access challenges that hinder humanitarian reach.

3. PRIORITY PROTECTION RISKS

RISK 1: Systematic Protection Risks & Violations

Within this crisis context, protection risks in Somalia continue to be intrinsically related to increased levels of vulnerability and exposure to violations, intensification of negative coping mechanisms, as well as increasingly weakened socio-economic community support structures.

During 2022, the **Somalia Protection Monitoring System (SPMS)** has revealed an upward trend on protection risks and violations, with the identification of the following top reported risks:¹⁰

- **Female Genital Mutilation** – Similarly to previous years, FMG continues to be the highest and consistently reported human rights violation recorded through SPMS (**37%**). FGM in Somalia

⁹ [Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project \(ACLED\)](#), Sept 2022

¹⁰ Somalia Protection Monitoring System (SPMS), Sept 2022



is a largely culturally-accepted social practice, with disagreement within the wider community of its basis within Islam. While there are segments of the population who disagree with the practice, inspiring a change extensive enough to counter long-held beliefs continues to require long-term strategies and coordinated efforts.

- **Sexual Assault and Violence** – Sexual assault and violence is the highest non culturally-accepted violation reported through SPMS (**30%**). The incident-based Protection & Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) corroborates the trend, identifying Sexual and Gender-Based Violence as the highest-reported protection violation. In the context of the current humanitarian response and the large-scale displacement resulting as a direct consequence of the drought and conflict, reported incidents of rape, attempted rape, sexual assault, and harassment have been on the rise, particularly among IDP communities.

Many shelter solutions of IDP communities are currently makeshift and provide inadequate protection or security from invasion. Lack of lighting on routes leading to water collection or firewood points is reported as a risk factor enabling attacks. Lack of segregation of latrines/hygiene facilities in sites (where in place) as well as no locks is also reported as a risk factor. It is important to note that GBV incidents remain highly underreported, as women often fear repercussions in a context of impunity for perpetrators.

- **Family Separation** – Family Separation has been reported through SPMS as both a voluntary coping mechanism as well as an involuntarily one during situations of internal displacement (**28%**). As a consequence of both conflict and drought, some families have opted to send their children to relatives in less affected areas or decided to leave family members behind – either to maintain scarce sources of livelihood, or because of

age, disease, or limited mobility prevent them from undertaking the displacement journey.

- **Violence, abuse, extortion and/or exclusion in aid delivery** – Current high needs, a markedly slow humanitarian response, as well as needs outpacing available resources, have added significant stress to internally displaced communities as well as those remaining in affected areas. Violence and/or abuse during assistance delivery has been widely reported through SPMS (**25%**), particularly affecting IDPs and predominantly stemmed from exclusion from beneficiary lists along clan affiliation lines (53%), primarily in cases of cash-based assistance (62%). Persons with minority-clan affiliations are reported as the most affected population group (23%), followed by women (11%). In addition, women and adolescent girls are reported as the population group most affected by extortion in aid delivery (23%). The type of extortion relates primarily to bribes to be included in beneficiary lists (79%), followed by exchange of sexual favors (36%).
- **Exclusion of Persons with Minority-Clan Affiliations** – While most Somalis are affected by the current crisis, populations with minority-clan affiliations are disproportionately affected and bear the greatest brunt. This is the result of existing and entrenched discriminatory practices and social norms around clan-based identity and associated hierarchical power dynamics, directly being reflected in systematic exclusion from humanitarian assistance. Discriminatory practices against populations with minority clan affiliations within the humanitarian response include exclusion from beneficiary lists and being allocated less favorable slots in existing IDP sites (e.g. next to latrines or waste dumping sites). Disadvantages faced by these groups also involve lack of clan protection systems as well as limited diaspora support structures, in comparison to



majority clan groups. For similar reasons, there are concerns of the effect of the drought on refugees and asylum seekers specifically in Puntland and Somaliland and risks of exclusion from assistance.

- **Limited and/or Obstructed Access to Justice and Legal Structures** – Effective and principled programming and operations of both national Civil Society Organizations and international NGOs are currently hindered by a lack of an effective legal, regulatory, and institutional framework across all regions of Somalia. This also directly affects Somali communities, reporting lack of access to duty bearers as a main protection concern through SPMS (**25%**), particularly for cases of survivors seeking redress for sexual violence and abuse. Legal procedures are assessed to be outdated and inefficient – relying on handwritten notes that are maintained and stored irregularly. Customary law and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms are further weakened by displacement, with IDPs recurrently reporting their inability to access duty-bearers to submit complaints or seek redress.

RISK 2: Child Protection Risks

Existing vulnerabilities of children and families are exacerbated during situations of drought or famine, particularly in conflict affected locations like Somalia. Children’s rights and wellbeing are often disastrously affected when families are forced to make difficult decisions about survival. Children drop out of school to search for food, may be forced into marriages or hazardous child labour, face increased levels of physical and sexual abuse, are at greater likelihood of abduction and trafficking, or are left behind or alone by parents who are searching for food.

Children on the Move

Children on the move in Somalia are at high-risk of abuse and exploitation. The displacement is increasing the risk of inter-communal conflict, as well as heightening pressure on already limited basic services. Some have migrated to near-by towns, joining existing camps for internally displaced people, while others have crossed borders seeking support or traversed dangerous distances controlled by armed groups and contaminated with explosives in search of work or humanitarian assistance and protection.

Older boys and girls, particularly those on the move, are continuously targeted for recruitment and use by armed forces and groups. Anecdotal evidence from assessments conducted in Southwest State indicates an increase in child recruitment by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG) during the last months. Similarly, newly displaced populations in Galmudug State fear returning to their original places in the near future due to fear that their children could be taken by the NSAG. IDPs are at risk of eviction at any time as they have settled in private lands without formal land tenure agreements, and in this context, children without parental care risk being exploited or rights denied.

UASC & Family Separation

According to data gathered by the Somalia CCCM Cluster, 40% of the new IDP sites have children not living with their caregivers. The actual case number of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) is currently not readily available. However, in locations where case management systems are operational such as in Banadir, child protection agencies have recorded an 81% increase in UASC, compared to the same period in 2021. A total of 98% of separated families cited increased disappearance of children/caregivers in the immediate aftermath of the emergency as the main cause of family



separations. Girls between ages 6-14 are more likely to be unaccompanied than boys.

Overall, 40% of the assessed communities indicate that separation of children from families as well as child neglect has significantly increased compared to the same period last year. Children not living with primary caregivers or not in any protective environment are at heightened risk to all forms of abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect. Lack of protection, especially for UASC, increases risk of recruitment into armed groups, sexual violence, neglect, exploitation, and other forms of abuse. In some locations, communities have cited threats of forceful recruitment of children into armed groups, while in other locations, both voluntary and involuntary child recruitment into armed groups has also increased.

Violence, Exploitation and Abuse against Children

In the current context of the drought emergency, the lack of water, food insecurity and negative coping mechanisms for survival of affected communities imposes higher protection risks to both children and their caregivers. For girls and women, including those with disabilities, the threat of GBV including sexual violence (rape and exploitation) and intimate partner violence has soared. In Somaliland, Hirshabelle and Galmudug States, child marriage has also been reported to be on the rise, with families marrying-off young girls to lessen demands on their own resources and potentially get money that they can use for food and other necessities. The risk of pre-existing gender inequality and violence such as female genital mutilation will also be exacerbated as more children risk being forced into marriages at an early age. The key drivers are mainly economic due to poverty and loss of income, and lack of information and awareness on the consequences of female genital mutilation.

Child Labor

During assessments led by the CP AoR and its partners, 70% of respondents indicated that children are involved in child labour and the worst forms of child labor in accordance with the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention.¹¹ Children affected by the drought and conflict crisis currently face exploitation, especially those displaced, from minority clans and those living close to areas controlled by non-state actors.

Since the drought hit the country, children are being pressured into child labor to support their families, while others are voluntarily opting to work to support themselves and families. If unaddressed, hundreds of thousands of children are at risk of dropping out of school or not returning to school at all. The Somalia Education Cluster estimates that **2.4 million** school-aged children have already been affected by the drought, while **720,000** of girls and boys who were enrolled in schools in 2021/22 are currently at risk of not returning to class. Somali girls face a higher risk of drop-out than boys, as families in the most drought-affected communities have stopped sending their children, particularly girls, to school, while others have chosen to prioritize education for boys over girls as they cannot afford school fees. Children who have been forced into work, or had their household chores substantially increased, are also at an alarming risk of exploitation.

Findings from child protection assessments conducted by the CP AoR and its partners found that 88% of respondents indicated that children are currently engaged in hazardous work outside their homes. Most frequent types of child labour reported can be found in the table above.

¹¹ Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (1999), No. 182.



What types of work are these children involved in?	
Sexual professions/transactions	18%
Factory work /manual labour	18%
Domestic labour (outside their own home)	88%
Responsible for transporting people or goods	41%
Street vendor (selling khat, cigarettes, shoe shinning, scrap scavenging and carrying luggage in the markets)	82%

Mental Health & Psychosocial Distress

Mental health and psychosocial distress continue to impact children affected by the drought in Somalia. Children face enormous psychological challenges as they battle hunger, uncertainty, and overwhelming levels of stress. Children are exhibiting symptoms of anxiety, stress and depression due to disruption of their normal routine, lack of food and a sense of hopelessness.

In an assessment conducted by the CP AoR in Southwest State, child protection actors reported changes in the behavior of children in their communities since the beginning of the drought, with more than half saying children had become “more aggressive”. Many children have been deprived of access to enough food, adequate water, shelter, proper sanitation, or healthcare. In many cases, families have had to neglect their children for long periods of time, sometimes to be separated from their families or one or more of their parents.

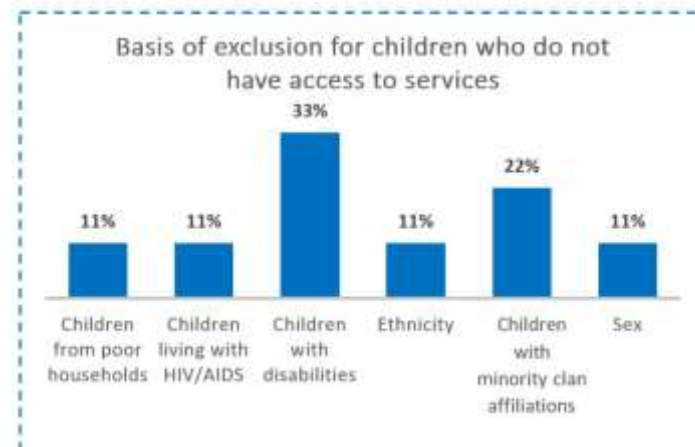
Avenues to help deal with this stress for children, such as child friendly spaces and schools, have either been closed or overstretched. The breakdown of children’s routines and structures, the inability to go to school and spend time with their peer groups, the lack of opportunities to play and be children in a safe place, all further exacerbate the impact of the drought emergency and

ongoing conflict on their mental health. The CP AoR revised drought target is at 962,500 in which 65% is targeting MHPSS and so far the CP AoR has reached 6% of the total target for the drought response.

The lack of MHPSS services in most locations is also a major challenge. In an assessment conducted in Southwest State among over 600 households, 67% reported having no availability of MHPSS services. Mental health and psychosocial support stand as one of the most urgent needs for displaced children.

Denial and/or Inability to Access Existing Services

A total of 64% of key informant interviews indicated that not all children have equal access to services such as livelihood support, Health, Shelter, WASH, education, cash and food assistance – depending on their gender, age, as well as different clan, ethnic and religious affiliations. In addition, 23 % of respondents reported that children with disabilities are less likely to access services than other children. In some locations, ethnicity determines access while in others, clan affiliation is often used by community members to deny access to services to those belonging to minority clans. A further 11% of the respondents also indicated transactional sex and exploitation as a predominant factor children’s ability to access services.





Where services are available, including protection services, 63% of the respondents indicated that girls and boys feel comfortable accessing these services by themselves, while 43% respondents indicated children need to be accompanied to the services/service providers.

RISK 3 – Sexual Violence and Intimate Partner Violence

Impact of the Drought

The less than average rainfalls in the second quarter of 2022, has resulted in crop failure and the death of livestock, severely impacting household income. Subsequently, this affects the ability of heads of households, typically male, to fulfill traditional responsibilities of primary provision for families, and increases the burden of providing economic support by women and adolescent girls, in addition to their existing care-taking responsibilities. Female subsistence farmers are similarly affected by loss of crops and failed harvests. Nomadic communities are compelled or forced to travel long distances in search of fodder for livestock, oftentimes leaving behind their spouses to cater for family needs.

This increases the vulnerability of female headed households, including widows, women from minority clans and those living with disabilities, as they struggle to cope with rising food prices, water scarcity, discriminatory social cultural norms and practices that endanger the lives of women and girls and compromise their wellbeing, status, personal security, and health.

Sexual Abuse, Exploitation & Intimate Partner Violence

Sexual abuse and exploitation, rape and intimate partner violence (IPV) are continuously increasing amidst the prevailing drought, especially in Bakool, Bay, Banadir, Galgaduud, Gedo, Hiraan, Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Mudug, Nugaal, Sool and Togdheer regions of Somalia and Somaliland. Displaced women and girls are at risk of

being raped, oftentimes resulting in unwanted pregnancies. Survivors of rape and children born out of rape are stigmatized and ostracized in Somali societies, causing severe psychosocial harm. Increasing levels of IPV are recorded across Somalia, due to tensions over scarce family resources. In addition, men are reportedly refusing to use birth spacing methods, despite the ongoing humanitarian emergency, resulting in worsening conditions of women, newborns, and families.

In addition, the GBVIMS report for the second quarter of 2022 showed that 14% of women and girls who reported GBV cases have been raped compared with 12% in the first quarter of 2022. In addition, 60% of the reported cases (mainly women) have been subjected to Intimate Partner Violence in the second quarter of 2022, compared to 51% in the first quarter. The increase is attributed to worsening drought conditions in regions and states across Somalia, and its resulting impact at household level and on gender power dynamics.

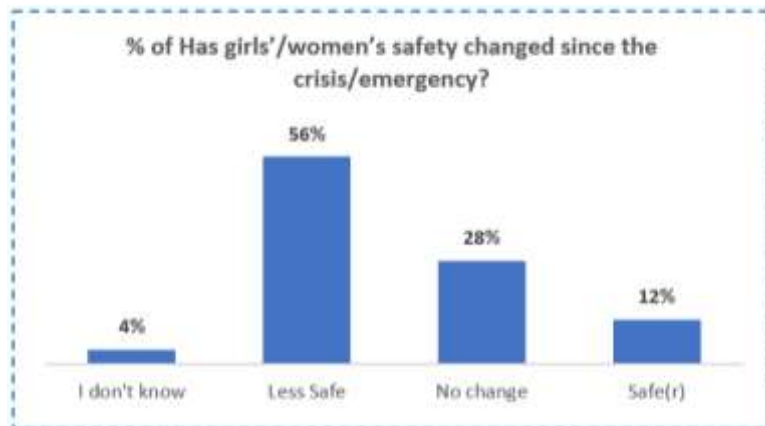
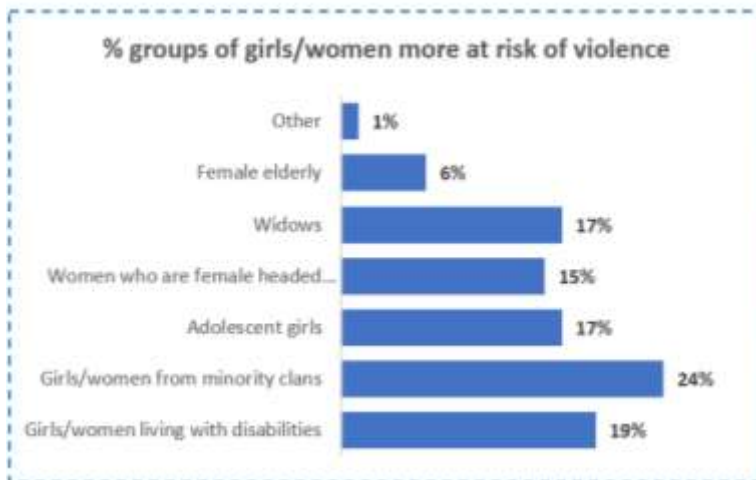
Ongoing Protection Risks & Trends

The GBV AoR protection analysis as well as GBVIMS highlight how women and girls are disproportionately affected by GBV due to prevailing drought, deeply rooted harmful social norms, gender inequalities and unequal power relations. The assessment led by the GBV AoR was able to provide further insights on ongoing protection risks and trends.

Respondents (32% female, 68% male) reported knowledge of areas where women and girls feel unsafe. Half of the respondents informed that they were aware of individuals or groups that make women and girls feel unsafe. Therefore, engagement with all community members is crucial in order to determine and implement measures for prevention of GBV in the camps and communities.



The analysis indicated that women and girls from minority clans and women and girls living with disabilities are at increased risk of GBV. They are at higher risk of violence due to stigma, discrimination, and weak social protection. Women and girls from minority clans were also vulnerable to Prioritizing the specific needs of women and girls from minority clans and living with disabilities is crucial, to enhance their protective environment.



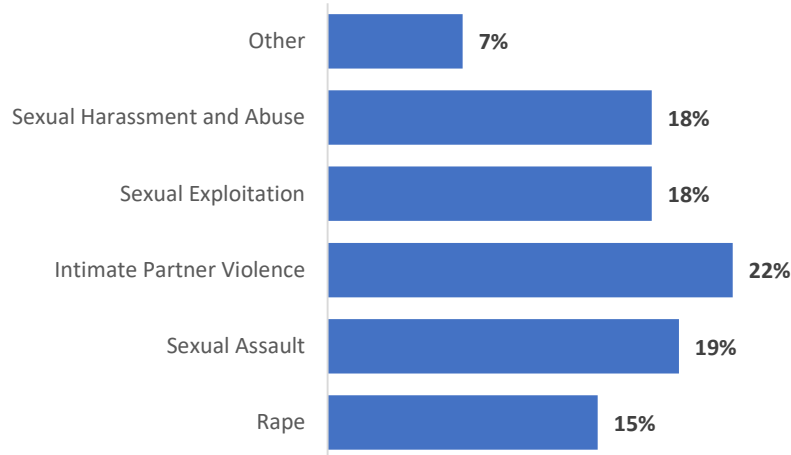
Respondents noted that over half of the women and girls feel less safe since the onset of the drought. Similarly, 80% of the respondents noted an increase in reports of violence against girls and women since the crisis/emergency occurred. The effects of drought exacerbated by the protracted conflict expose women and girls to GBV, who are already at increased risk of GBV in normal settings. The safety of all community members in emergencies is paramount. It is crucial for GBV stakeholders to determine measures that jeopardize the safety of women and girls in emergencies to scale up interventions that will enhance their safety. Majority of the respondents reported an increase of Intimate Partner Violence incidents affecting women and girls. IPV disproportionately affects females due to gender inequalities which may increase in emergencies due to stress arising from the reduced or limited income for household needs.

Most of the respondents highlighted IPV as the greatest GBV risk women face in camps or the community at 24%, followed by sexual violence out of the home or in the community at 22%, FGM/C at 19% and sexual violence in the family in and outside home at 16%. IPV impacts negatively on the health and well-being of survivors in the immediate and longer term. Survivors often resort to the traditional justice system which, although helpful in resolving some issues, may not be effective in addressing GBV incidents due to gender inequalities and power imbalance. It is crucial for GBV stakeholders to scale up community engagement and advocacy on positive ways of coping with stress and scale up awareness raising against cultural acceptance of IPV.

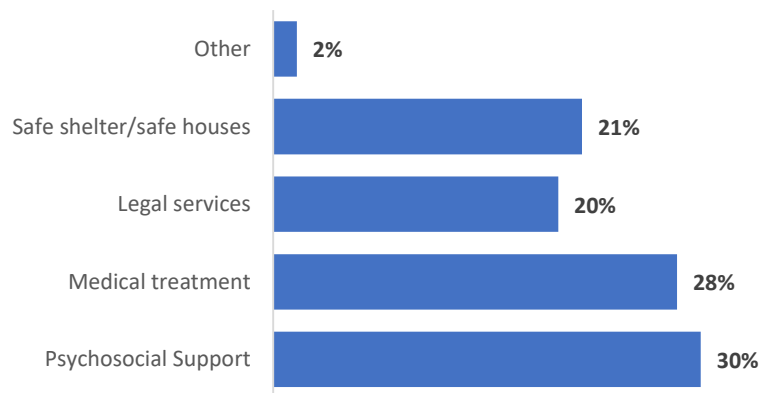
Majority of the respondents identified FGM/C as the greatest risk that girls are exposed to at 29%, followed by sexual violence inside and outside camps and communities at 26% and 23% respectively and sexual violence in the family at 17%. The data highlights that approximately 98% of Somali women and girls have undergone



% What type of violence has increased?



% of GBV services available and accessible in camp/community



FGM/C. GBV service providers provide prevention or protection services and care related services for survivors of FGM/C. Engagement of all stakeholders such as religious leaders are vital to achieve the long-term goal of social norm change on harmful traditional practices.

Majority of the respondents identified FGM/C as the greatest risk that girls are exposed to at 29%, followed by sexual violence inside and outside camps and communities at 26% and 23% respectively and sexual violence in the family at 17%. The data highlights that approximately 98% of Somali women and girls have undergone FGM/C. GBV service providers provide prevention or protection services and care related services for survivors of FGM/C. Engagement of all stakeholders such as religious leaders are vital to achieve the long-term goal of social norm change on harmful traditional practices.

Access & Availability of Services

Psychosocial support (PSS) is the most available and accessible service in the camps/communities integrated in the case management process due to the demand of the service. The services range from basic emotional support, psychosocial first aid (PFA) and specialized PSS. Continuous training and re-training of case workers/social workers on PFA is critical, given that they are the first point of contact for the survivors reporting GBV. This will enhance the quality of care in line with the guiding principles, facilitate healing and recovery.

In relation to distance to service centers, 39% of the respondents noted that the services are over three kilometers, compared to a third that noted the services are within one kilometer from the camp/community. In addition, 36% of the respondents noted that available GBV services are accessible daily, compared to 32% noted that the services are accessible five days weekly. Additional 32%



reported that there were no GBV service centers in their respective areas. Updated referral pathways are needed to improve information on availability of services to survivors at the short-term while efforts to increase GBV centers in communities that are within reach to IDP camps are important in the long run.

A third of the respondents highlighted fear of violence as the obstacle that prevents women/adolescent girls from accessing services in the camp and surrounding communities, followed by challenges with transportation or distance at 29%. A further 17% of the respondents noted financial constraints related to fees for the services while 10% noted lack of time to seek services. Access to timely and safe services in line with GBV guiding principles is crucial in order to facilitate healing and recovery of GBV survivors. Addressing the barriers is necessary in order to enhance access to timely and safe services for survivors, for example, subsidized services.

Daynille in Banadir region recorded the highest in terms of percentage of respondents that confirmed the presence and implementation of activities at 24%, followed by Baidoa, Afgooye and Jowhar at 20%. This is correlated with the needs and population in the districts, thus the higher the needs, the higher the availability of services. Majority of the areas affected by drought have gaps in services due to increased needs, thus the need for scale up of time critical, lifesaving GBV services for survivors.

RISK 4: Forced Eviction

Country-Specific Contextual Framework

The huge scale of forced evictions in Somalia is widely acknowledged, and the various causes and impacts of evictions have been identified. Forced evictions constitute a growing problem in Somalia, on such a scale that it could be described as an epidemic. They have had catastrophic consequences for millions of affected individuals,

families and communities, including physical and mental trauma, homelessness, loss of wealth and assets, loss of jobs, loss of access to health, education and other services, and destruction of family and survival networks. Forced evictions in Somalia are caused by a number of factors, including: illegal occupation and squatting, land grabs, development and infrastructure projects, urban redevelopment, property market forces often supported by state intervention, contested and multiple claims and natural hazards e.g. flood risk, potential flooding, and drought or famine.

It is important to note that international human rights law on forced evictions clearly states that these amount to gross violations of human rights. They also run counter to the Sustainable Development Goals which aims to achieve significant improvement in the lives of millions of people including ending poverty et al. Most notable of the applicable international standards are General Comment No. 4 on the Right to Adequate Housing and General Comment No. 7 on Forced Evictions, adopted by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1991 and 1997, respectively.

General Comment No. 4 defines the right to adequate housing and declares that forced eviction is prima facie incompatible with that right. General Comment No. 7 affirms that forced evictions violate the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, indicating that “the State itself must refrain from forced evictions and ensure that the law is enforced against its agents or third parties who carry out forced evictions”. It further states that “Evictions should not result in individuals being rendered homeless or vulnerable to the violation of other human rights” and prescribes procedural protective mechanisms for evictees in those exceptional cases where eviction is unavoidable.

Forced evictions are also proscribed in several other human rights treaties adopted at the international and regional levels, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the



African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights et al. Furthermore, the UN Commission on Human Rights has affirmed that forced evictions constitute gross violations of human rights. However, there has yet to be a concerted and comprehensive effort to fully implement the right of protection against forced eviction in Somalia and thereby make them a reality.

Prevalence of Evictions

From January to August 2022, a total of **125,919 individuals were forcefully evicted** in Somalia. Despite this high number of evictions recorded, there were an additional **109,650 individuals protected** from forced evictions through preventive engagement during this same time period.¹² Banadir region remains a hotspot for evictions in Somalia, with **80.2%** of all cases, with Daynile and Kaxda as high-risk locations.

A recent analysis on what happens to HLP assets after evictions indicates that 89% of evictions recorded in Somalia were carried out by private landlords due to owner-driven development, while 11% were carried out by the state for government-led development. It further indicates that 58% of the IDP sites have created developments with new houses, buildings, roads, or shops constructed on the land. Out of this total, 56 IDP sites reported that new IDP households had settled on the same land post eviction. In some of the sites, a number of landowners constructed new shelters for rent, while in other sites the newly settled IDP households were paying higher rental fees.

In Mogadishu alone, the humanitarian sector has lost \$2,196,500 in infrastructure and investments as a result of forced evictions, and

this is mainly attributed to insecure land tenure between January and June 2022. This undermined access to critical essential services and lifesaving interventions such as water, sanitation, nutrition, health, housing and education among others.

Impact of the Drought

With the onset and worsening of the drought throughout 2022, challenges confronting displaced communities in Somalia have continued to increase. The most severe and acute HLP needs remain concentrated in areas affected by drought and locations hosting large numbers of IDPs and returnees. Newly-drought displaced households are joining existing IDP settlements as a coping mechanism with unclear tenure arrangements, putting them at further risk of forced evictions. The violation of HLP rights, in the form of forced evictions, remains a major negative factor affecting the overall protective environment for newly drought-displaced populations, thereby perpetuating social marginalisation.¹³ Moreover, the majority of those displaced are elderly, children and women, including pregnant and lactating mothers. The lack of proper shelter and privacy in overcrowded IDP settlements has exposed women and children to protection risks such as gender-based violence including rape and physical assaults. The pressure on limited resources as well has continued to contribute to rising tensions, conflicts and land disputes in the existing IDP settlements and affected communities.

Current Gaps & Challenges

Housing, land and property concerns linked to forced evictions relate mainly to damage/destruction of land or property, lack of documents, rental problems and disputed ownership. The HLP AoR

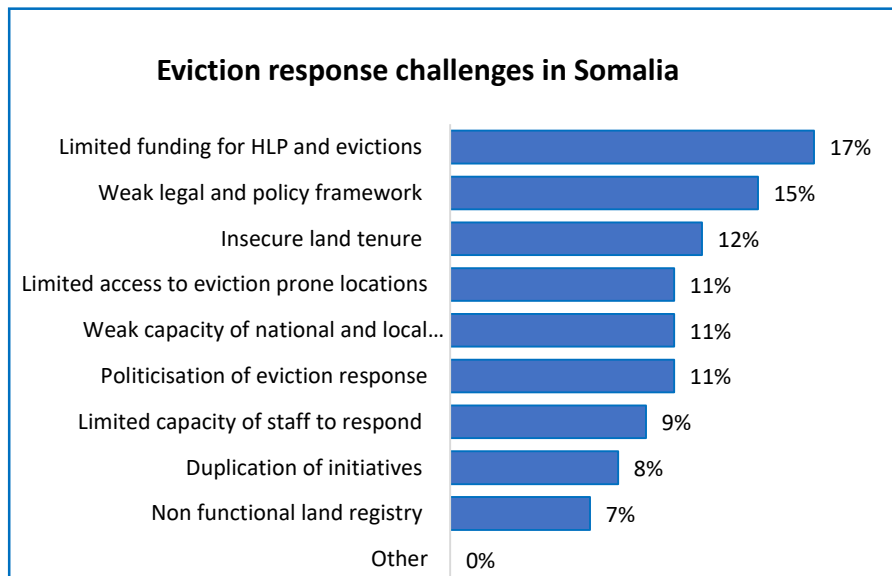
¹² For additional information on evictions in Somalia, please visit the Eviction Portal: <https://evictions.nrcsystems.net/index.php>.

¹³ NRC, UN-Habitat, & Somalia Protection Cluster. (2018). Back to Square One. Available at: <https://www.nrc.no/globalassets/pdf/reports/somalia/back-to-square-one-28post-evictionassessment-in-somalia29.pdf>



conducted an assessment to identify main challenges in the response to forced evictions in Somalia. Respondents were 32% female and 68% male, and were drawn from several organizations; 80% from national NGOs, 12% civil society and 8% international NGOs. The respondents held various positions in these organizations; 40% were managers, 28% Heads of Program, 24% field staff and 8% as directors. The majority of HLP partners cover districts in Mogadishu, Afgooye, Baidoa, and Jowhar.

Identified existing challenges included limited funding, weak legal and policy framework, insecure land tenure, limited access to eviction prone locations, politicization of eviction response, limited capacity of staff to respond, duplication of initiatives and a non-functional land registry. HLP partners also agreed that the focus of support towards addressing these issues should include; training on HLP and evictions (25%), Advocacy (25%), fundraising and resource mobilization (19 %), development of HLP specific resources such as tools and templates (18%), joint analyses (12%) and others (1%).



The impact of forced evictions on displacement affected communities in Somalia is tremendous and long-lasting, frequently aggravated by other HLP violations, and continues to put to waste humanitarian investments. The sense of being unable to escape forced evictions, combined with the impact of several years of conflict and instability, has also eroded their sense of hope and resilience in Somalia, further exacerbating the displacement situation.

RISK 4: Impact of Explosive Hazards

Somalia has been affected by armed conflict for almost four decades, which has resulted in widespread contamination with explosive ordnance; including explosive remnants of war (ERW), landmines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). With the conflict in Somalia still ongoing, explosive ordnance contamination is prevalent even in locations where productive livelihood activities are being carried out, such as pasturelands, agricultural farmlands, and access routes.

As of August 2022, the extent of contamination includes **120** confirmed minefields covering up to 60 sq km, another **77** suspected hazardous areas, as well as **19** battle areas reported. Additionally, the increased use of improvised explosive devices has resulted in **422 casualties** between January and August 2022, while explosive remnants of war and landmines have caused **30** casualties. Despite the primary target of IEDs being security forces, the civilian population accounted for 50% of the total number of IED casualties perpetrated by anti-government armed elements in Somalia, over the same period.

Apart from civilians being the more vulnerable to the impact of explosive ordnance when compared to security forces, children represent the most vulnerable group in the context of explosive remnants of war accidents. The proportion of children being affected has been on the rise, accounting for more than 80% of the total



casualties. The explosive ordnance contamination also poses threats to the safety of vulnerable and conflict-affected groups such as IDPs and returnees, as well as nomadic communities, given the mobility of such groups as they traverse vast terrains in search of suitable settlements.

The use of improvised explosive devices threatens the safety of the civilian population and that of humanitarian and stabilization partners, as well as aggravating the humanitarian situation where the safe access and delivery of humanitarian aid is impeded. The presence of confirmed and suspected hazardous areas is known to cause psychological distress, block access to productive resources and impede the development of infrastructure. Similarly, victims and survivors with physical disability resulting from explosive ordnance endure limited participation in day-to-day life and socio-economic activities, besides introducing a heavy financial burden upon the caretakers for medical care and support, in particular by female family members.

Following the prevailing drought that has significantly impacted families across the country, the number of displacements has increased, including among communities living in known hazardous areas, or migrations occurring into contaminated areas, thereby exposing these drought-affected communities to the secondary risk posed by explosive ordnance. The limited levels of awareness of the risks posed, coupled with the limited knowledge of likely hazardous areas and the patterns of explosive ordnance accidents, the explosive hazard contamination further endangers lives and restricts the movements of the population.

Geographical Prevalence

About 80% of the known minefields (confirmed hazardous areas) in Somalia are located in the districts of Baladweyn (51) Elberde (25) and Abudwaq (20); in Hirshabelle SouthWest and Galmudug states,

respectively, making them the most mine-affected districts in the country. While about 53% of suspected hazardous areas are collectively located in Baidoa, Hudur and Elberde districts of Southwest State, 37% of these are in Galmudug State alone.

Between January and August 2022, up to 60% of landmines and ERW accidents occurred in Galmudug (GL) and Southwest (SW) States, majority being in Abudwaq and Rabdhure districts of GL and SW, respectively. In relation to IED civilian casualties reported during the same time, about 43% (176) of the casualties were in Beletweyn, Hirshabelle State, followed by Mogadishu and Bossaso in Puntland State.

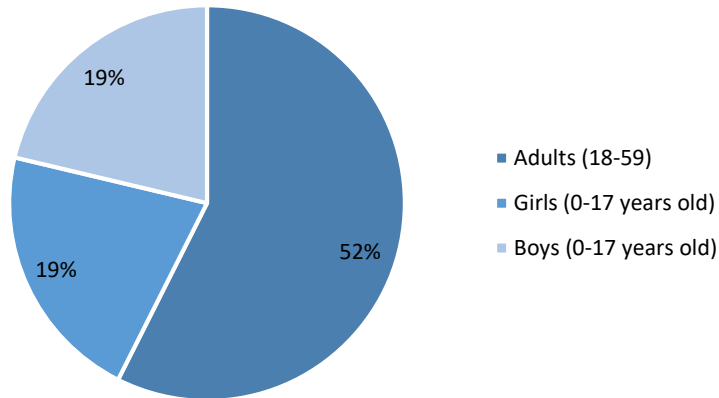
Differentiated Impact

The Mine Action/Explosive Hazards AoR conducted an assessment with key informant interviews, 68% male and 32% female. A total of 32% of the respondents indicated that improvised explosive devices were a major threat, followed by explosive remnants of war (27%) and landmines (15%). Groups at risk identified in the online assessment include IDPs (28%), host community, (20%) minority or marginalized groups (19%) and persons with special needs (17%), albeit only 4% of the respondents represented Mine Action organizations, while 96% were non-Mine Action organizations.

Age groups at risk according to the respondents, (52%) of them indicated adults, while (48%) indicated that children were more at risk. The push factors that compel the civilian population to handle or endure exposure to the risks of explosive ordnance were identified as the lack of awareness on the risks, movements across areas with perceived or confirmed presence of explosive hazards, the lack of site planning for IDP camps, and peer pressure. Similarly, IEDs majorly affected those 'in the wrong place at the wrong time', mainly in areas with active militancy and along main supply routes connecting major urban areas.



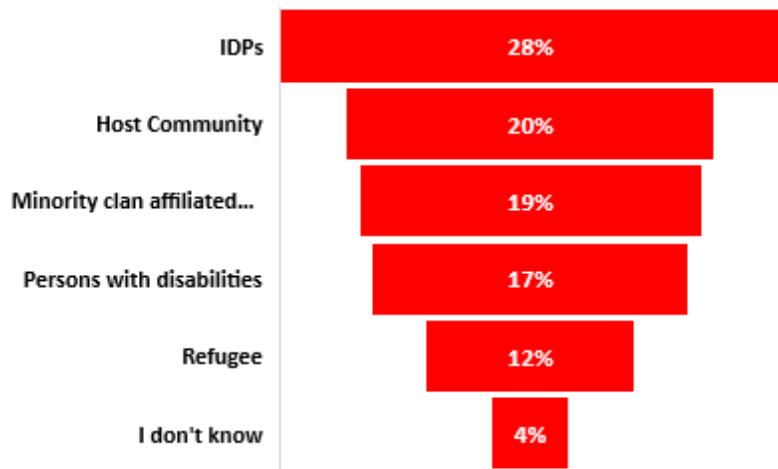
Age groups at risk



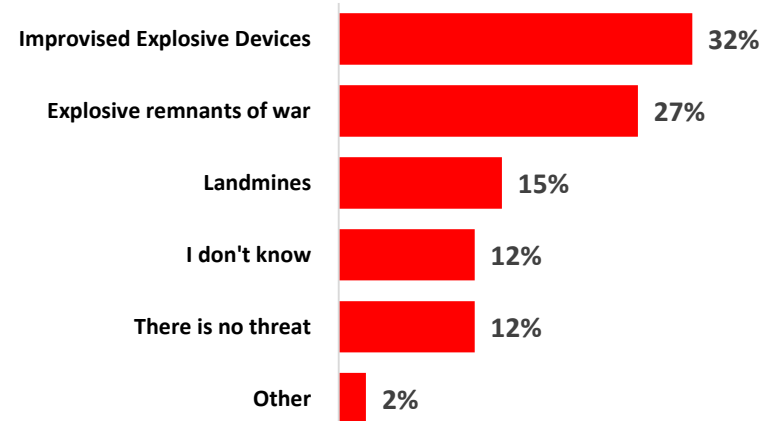
Current Challenges

Key challenges include the significant barriers to access encountered by mine action operators in vast areas of the country, due to the persisting challenge of insecurity and the increased use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) which result in unprecedented injuries and deaths among civilians. The EH/Mine Action AoR is the least funded sub-cluster through the humanitarian pooled funds, thus making it difficult to respond to critical and the emergency concerns of the affected population in Somalia. The lack of updated information on the extent of explosive hazard contamination has also been a consistent challenge. This can only be addressed through a comprehensive non-technical survey (NTS) exercise, to identify and define the hazard areas, to enhance clearance response planning.

Groups at risk



Common Explosive Ordinance threats





4. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

General Protection

- Strengthen evidence-based advocacy based on ongoing protection monitoring findings and analysis, targeting the HCT, ICCG, donors, international community, as well as national and local authorities where and as needed.
- Findings and recommendations from the community-based Joint Analysis Workshops should be more strongly capitalized to generate concrete actions, and inform programming and strategic changes to adapt to evolving needs.
- Promote joint inter-sectorial efforts to identifying and address differential forms of exclusion of different population groups throughout the response, including girls, boys, women, elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with specific protection needs as well as persons with minority clan affiliations, and ensure principled, equitable and quality humanitarian assistance.
- Ensure protection mainstreaming measures are meaningfully and efficiently integrated across all sectorial responses, in line with contextualized guidelines for the drought and famine prevention response.
- Support the establishment of joint inter-agency systems for the identification and referral of protection cases throughout the in-site, urban and rural/hard-to-reach responses.
- Work closely with CCCM Cluster to strengthen in-site identification and referral of protection cases, as well as

support community-led protection monitoring systems that can generate needed programming changes in real-time.

Child Protection

Specialized protection services and expertise need to be prioritized, for children to have access to psychosocial care, family reunification, and other critical services. Increased action and resources that must be put in place to protect children include the following:

- Child protection specialists need to be present in the field to provide standalone services and coordination of child protection responses with other sectors to ensure programming and quality integration of child protection concerns in assessments, response plans, and monitoring.
- Development of child protection mainstreaming strategies and referral pathways in collaboration with, all other clusters, partners, and government ministries where possible.
- Targeted child protection prevention and response services as part of a multi-sectoral response is crucial. For example, psychosocial support and care for children in extremely vulnerable situations, support for community-based protection mechanisms, and advocacy for children associated with armed forces and armed groups and others exploited in child labor.
- Linkages with Gender-based Violence to further address girls' and boys' safety and ensure the use of GBV referral pathways.
- Linkages with the Education cluster, recognizing the protection value of children being in school and the potential to work through education to keep children safe and identify those at risk.
- Specialized psychosocial interventions due to rising needs and complexity of children's emotional and psychological health.



Gender Based Violence

- Scale up initiatives for women empowerment through skills training for livelihood to protect women and girls from early marriage and domestic violence.
- Scale up of GBV services including medical services, PSS and legal assistance for survivors
- GBV training for service providers including CMR.
- Distribution of hygiene kits and dignity kits.
- Scale up awareness raising in communities for all forms of GBV.
- Install solar lights in public places including roads, water points, and latrines in order to enhance security at night.
- Establish safe spaces and safe shelters for women and girls.
- Enhance access to mobile health services among the IDP camps at all times.
- Ensured updated referral pathways in IDP camps.
- Consider provision of transportation for GBV survivors.
- Enhance the protective environment through legislative reforms for law enforcement.

Housing, Land and Property

The following recommendations are aimed at addressing the eviction situation in Somalia and if implemented effectively, several milestones will be registered in the area of HLP.

- Data collection and analysis should not simply be the overwhelming number of forced evictions taking place but should also include success stories where evictions had been averted and replaced with alternatives acceptable to all affected parties. It was felt that, in view of the huge range of

relevant experience and expertise in Somalia, HLP partners would offer a unique opportunity for discussion of different tools to be used in dealing with evictions, and for combining these into innovative new methodologies to begin to turn the tide of forced evictions around Somalia. Humanitarian partners could discuss best practice case studies and benefit from shared learning, monitoring, evaluation and reflection.

- Humanitarian actors should acknowledge that blueprint approaches are seldom effective in dealing with forced evictions and should design projects that address forced eviction through a multi sector and multi-actor approach. In addition to this, methodologies need to be flexible, and adapted to specific situations using combinations of a variety of different tools, including community mobilization, research, and legal action, negotiations between parties, policy reform and community-driven planning.
- The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) should institutionalize the promotion of the rights of individuals to adequate housing, and ensure displacement affected communities are protected from forced evictions.
- Regional states should prioritize and engage the FGS in the protection of property abandoned by IDPs from destruction, unlawful use and occupation, legal and/or physical appropriation, looting and trespassing.
- The international community and donors should advance integrated programming and support for displacement affected communities affected by forced evictions in Somalia, in an effort to address the sharp rise in negative coping mechanisms and related protection risks linked to gaps in accessing HLP specific services and assistance.



Explosive Hazards

The following recommendations are proposed to ensure the Protection of Civilians from the risk of explosive ordnance, enable safe movement and provide necessary support to survivors of explosive ordnance accidents.

- As Explosive Hazards are among the recurring threat to the population, support to Mine Action activities to reduce civilians' casualties through a sustained funding of HRP projects in 2022 and beyond.
- Scale up awareness raising for newly displaced families, returnees and communities living in proximity of hazardous areas to minimize potential risks.
- The EH/MA AoR with government line ministries and donors to collaborate the development of improvised explosive devices risk education package.
- Government of Somalia to provide necessary support to national mine action institutions to protect civilians from explosive hazards.
- Provide targeted explosive removal responses into conflict affected areas and continue legacy mine clearance in border areas.
- Explore innovative ways to deliver explosive ordnance risk education including, integrating awareness raising to other protection and education activities and explore integrating into the national school curriculum.
- Develop referral pathways for victims of landmines and improve field coordination with other AoRs and clusters.