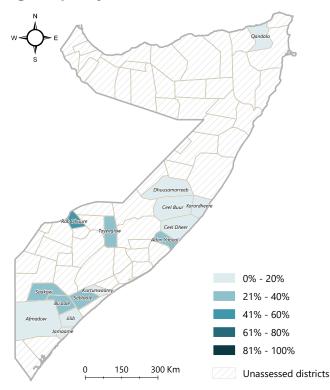


KEY MESSAGES

- Insecurity and conflict may have worsened existing accessibility challenges in hard-to-reach districts. Danger and insecurity in the year prior to data collection were reported in over half of the assessed districts (59%), while drought/lack of rain (48%) and flooding (35%) were also reported during the same period. Findings further suggest that danger and insecurity were key barriers to humanitarian access, with insecurity or danger travelling to and from aid (46%) and insecurity and danger after receiving aid (34%) as the most commonly reported barriers to accessing humanitarian assistance.
- Occasional use of surface water for drinking (72%), inadequate shelter types and long distance to healthcare facilities (45%) in the assessed settlements may exacerbate the vulnerability of hard-to-reach settlements to disease outbreaks, particularly cholera.
- Conflicts and insecurity may be driving the protection risks in hard-to-reach districts. Protection risks were reported in many assessed settlements (65%).

Coverage Map, July 2024.



CONTEXT & RATIONALE

The crisis in Somalia has worsened due to previous drought, recent insecurity, and heavy Gu rains. This has led to widespread displacement, further exacerbated by heightened insecurity, limiting access to essential services and aid for affected communities. Despite concerted efforts, humanitarian access remains constrained due to security challenges, underscoring the urgent need for coordinated interventions to address the multifaceted challenges facing Somalia's vulnerable populations particularly residing in Hard-to-Reach districts.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

This brief presents the key findings from 980 Key Informant Interviews in 299 assessed settlements across 15 hard-to-reach districts. For the July 2024 round, hard-to-reach districts were defined as districts which were not accessible for face-to-face data collection for the Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) in June - July 2024.1 The interviews focused on gathering information about the humanitarian conditions and needs of the population residing in H2R areas, as well as assessing the respondents' knowledge of the situation. The recall period referred to throughout the brief is "at the time of data collection" unless otherwise stated. It is important to note that these findings provide an indication of the situation and should not be generalized. For more detailed information, please refer to page 8.



★ SHOCKS AND ACCESS

Insecurity and conflict in hard-to-reach districts are impeding access to humanitarian assistance, and the lack of accessible roads could impede access in hard-to-reach districts more broadly. Danger and insecurity in the year prior to data collection was reported in over half of the assessed districts (59%), while drought/lack of rain (48%) and flooding (35%) were also reported during the same period. Findings further suggest that danger and insecurity are key barriers to humanitarian access, with insecurity or danger travelling to and from aid (46%) and insecurity and danger after receiving aid (34%) as the most commonly reported barriers to accessing humanitarian assistance. In parallel, there was a lack of accessible roads in just over half of the assessed settlements (53%). OCHA similarly highlighted that insecurity/conflict are constraining humanitarian access², while reports from the Somalia Logistics Cluster indicate that roads in these hard-to-reach districts remain largely impassable.³

53%

of assessed settlements where roads were reportedly unsafe and/or inaccessible by vehicle at the time of data collection.

Three most commonly reported barriers that most households in the settlement faced when accessing humanitarian assistance, by % of assessed settlements.*

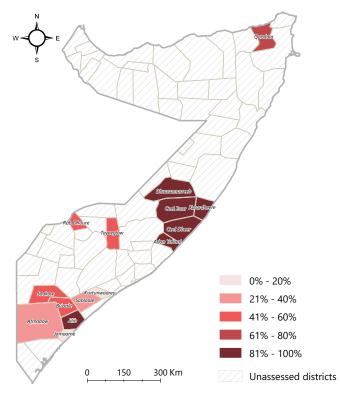
Insecurity or danger travelling to and from aid

Insecurity or danger after receiving aid

Aid is too far away

29%

% of assessed settlements where insecurity/violence had reportedly affected these settlement in the 12 months prior to data collection.



%→ DISPLACEMENT

Conflict and insecurity, coupled with a lack of sufficient food and income, may be driving displacements from hard-to-reach districts. Almost all KIs in assessed settlements reported that people had moved out within the 30 days prior to data collection (84%). Of those settlements, most people had reportedly relocated to other districts within Somalia in 67% of settlements. Conflict/insecurity (60%), lack of sufficient food (50%) and lack of sufficient income (35%), were reportedly the drivers behind these displacements out of the settlements where people reportedly moved out. Findings further indicate that there were individuals who wanted to leave but could not do so, primarily due to physical disabilities and age in most assessed settlements (76%). The population groups who were reported by the most settlements as unable to move but wanting to do so were the elderly (46% elderly women, 45% elderly men) and people with disabilities (52%). This could suggest that the most vulnerable individuals in hard-to-reach districts may be the least able to physically access support available in accessible areas.

Of assessed settlements where some people reportedly had moved away in the 30 days prior to data collection.



Districts where 100% of assessed settlements reportedly had people move out of the settlement in the 30 days prior to data collection.

Ceeldheer (n=14/14)
Dhuusomareb (n=26/26)
Qandala (n=8/8)



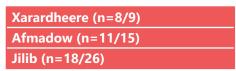
FOOD SECURITY

Food insecurity may be prevalent in hard-to-reach districts. At least one in four households in more than half of the assessed settlements reportedly did not have enough food to eat (60%). The most common coping strategies for dealing with food insecurity include borrowing food from another household (78%), purchasing food with borrowed money (55%), and sending children to eat with another household (45%). In parallel, some households have reported exhausting coping strategies such as relying on remittances (23%) and can longer use to meet their food needs. Limited access to humanitarian assistance, livelihoods and markets could be the drivers behind food insecurity in hard-to-reach districts.⁴

% of assessed settlements where at least one in four households reportedly did not have enough food to eat at the time of data collection.



Top three districts where many or all households (51% - 100%) reportedly did not have enough food to eat in the settlement.



% of assessed settlements where KIs reported that some households in the settlement resorted to using the below strategies to cope with lack of food or money to buy food at the time of data collection:*

Borrow food from another household	78%
Purchase food with borrowed money	55%
Send children to eat with another household	45%

LIVELIHOODS

The main livelihoods in hard-to-reach districts are reportedly farming and livestock herding (32% farming and livestock, 24% farming, 22% livestock). However, these agricultural activities are constrained by several factors, including a lack of farming equipment, no rain, and insufficient water for irrigation. Despite 71% of assessed settlements where farming is a main source of livelihood reporting that most households were able to plant in the most recent planting season, KIs in almost all assessed settlements reported crop losses during the recent harvest (87%). This finding is consistent with the FEWS NET July report, which highlighted substantial crop losses due to poor rainfall in some areas, an unusually early end to the rains in early May, prolonged dry conditions through June, and flooding in riverine areas. With the upcoming Deyr season expected to be affected by La Niña⁵, bringing below-average rainfall, there will be concerns for those that rely on Agriculture. Among the assessed settlements, 56% depend on farming as a primary source of income, and of these farming settlements, 45% relied on rainwater for irrigation, these conditions could exacerbate existing food insecurity and economic vulnerabilities in hard-to-reach districts.

% of assessed settlements where crop loss was reported for most households during the most recent harvest season.**



Most commonly reported reasons for crop loss, by % of assessed settlements where crop loss was experienced during the most recent harvest season (87%).*

46%	Lack of farming equipment
40%	No rain
34%	Lack of water for irrigation



^{*} KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

^{**} Note: Crop loss estimates from KIs for most households during the recent harvest season are included in this finding, regardless of the reported level of crop loss.

ACCESS TO MARKETS

Hard-to-reach districts face challenges in accessing markets, which limits their ability to obtain essential goods and services. KIs in nearly half of the assessed settlements (44%) reported that access to the market was limited to some days, with 94% of these settlements indicating that the market was accessible only 1 to 4 days per week at the time of data collection. This limited access is due to several factors, such as caregiving responsibilities for children and the elderly, restrictions imposed by families, and limitations set by local or traditional authorities. These barriers not only reduce the frequency of market visits but also decrease the availability of goods and services, driving up the prices of essentials like food and water. This aligns with a OCHA report which indicates an increase in food prices in some of the hard-to-reach districts. The increases in food and water prices exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and could lead to increased food insecurity and reduced access to clean water.

% of assessed settlements where there was a functioning marketplace but access was limited to only some days at the time of data collection.

> of those settlements where access to marketplace was limited to only

> > four days a week or less.

Top three districts where there was at least one reported barrier constraining market access in the settlement in the three months prior to data collection.

> Adanyabaal (n=10/10) Dhuusomareb (n=26/26) Rab dhuure (n=49/51)

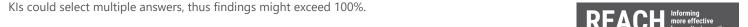
ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Hard-to-reach districts face challenges in accessing clean water and improved sanitation facilities. The majority of the assessed settlements (72%) reported that some households occasionally resorted to surface water sources for drinking, while an even higher percentage (98%) indicated the use of unimproved sanitation facilities. Water points being too far (50%), inaccessibility for people with a disability (45%) and insufficient number of water points (22%) were the most commonly reported barriers to accessing water, and could be partially driving this high reliance on surface water for drinking. This situation heightens the risk of disease outbreaks, particularly cholera and acute watery diarrhea (AWD). High reliance on unimproved sanitation facilities and surface water for drinking could heighten the risk of disease outbreaks, particularly cholera and acute watery diarrhea (AWD).⁷

% of assessed settlements where KIs reported that households relied on unimproved sanitation facilities at the time of data collection.

Top three districts where people reportedly used surface water for drinking in the settlement.

> Jamaame (n=27/27) Jilib (n=26/26) Tiyeglow (n=37/39)



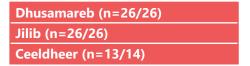
営 ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Healthcare services in hard-to-reach districts are severely constrained. KIs in almost half of the assessed settlements (45%) reported that households had to travel more than 1 hour away using the most common mode of transportation to reach a health facility. Additionally, KIs in the majority of the assessed settlements (62%) reported that neither healthcare nor nutrition services had been provided in the month prior to data collection.

of assessed settlements where neither healthcare nor nutrition services had been provided in the month before data collection.

% of assessed settlements with reported access to a health facility that was more than 1 hour away using the most common mode of transportation at the time of data collection.

Top three districts where there were reportedly no healthcare, nutrition or food services in the settlement in the 30 days prior to data collection.





ACCESS TO EDUCATION

The lack of learning facilities was evident in hard-to-reach districts, with the majority of assessed settlements reportedly having no educational facilities within the settlement (69%). This was reflected in school attendance rates, as many KIs in the assessed settlements reported that school-aged children had not been attending school regularly (at least four days per week) in the six months prior to the data collection (67% Boys 5 - 12 years, 67% Girls 5 - 12 years, 76% Boys 13 - 17 years and 77% Girls 13 - 17 years). The most commonly reported barrier was the absence of learning facilities or distance to the nearest school being too far.

% of assessed settlements indicated a lack of learning facilities at the time of data collection.



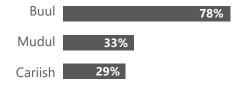
Top three districts where there were reportedly no learning facilities.

Saakow (n=33/33)
Rab Dhuure (n=46/51)
Kurtunwaarey (n=16/19)

ACCESS TO ADEQUATE SHELTER

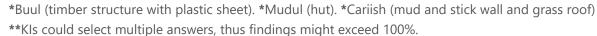
Findings indicate that residents in the majority of the assessed settlements in hard-to-reach districts relied on inadequate shelter types, including Buul (78%), Mudul (33%), and Cariish (29%). Additionally, vulnerable groups such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, and women were reported to have unequal access to the same shelter types as other groups which highlights their increased vulnerability to environmental hazards in hard-to-reach districts.

Three most commonly reported inadequate shelter types, by % of assessed settlements.***



Top three districts where Buul shelters were most commonly reported.**

Saakow (n=33/33)
Jilib (n=26/26)
Rab Dhuure (n=48/51)





PROTECTION

Conflicts and insecurity may be driving the protection risks in hard-to-reach districts. Protection risks were reported in many assessed settlements (65%), with the most commonly reported risks being: forced marriage (25%), being threatened with violence (22%) and being robbed (17%). These protection risks could reflect broader insecurity in hard-to-reach districts.

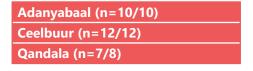
% of assessed settlements where at least one protection risk was reported at the time of data collection.



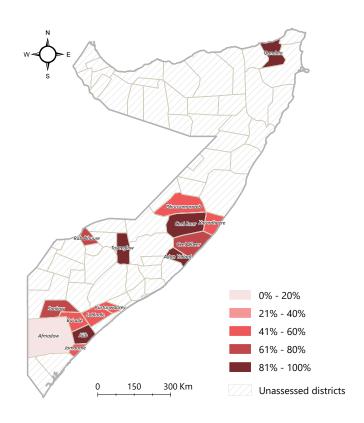
The three most commonly reported protection risks in the assessed settlements at the time of data collection:*



Top three districts where there was reportedly at least one protection risk in the settlement:



% of assessed settlements reporting protection risks at the time of data collection, per district





METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

This assessment was based on an Area of Knowledge (AoK) methodology, which relies on key informant (KI) quantitative interviews to provide an indicative overview of hard-to-reach districts in Somalia. When possible, enumerators interviewed KIs who were living in hard-to-reach districts at the time of data collection by mobile phone. Where mobile phone interview was not possible, then face-toface interviews were conducted in the accessible areas. Accessible areas included Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) sites and markets among others. The key informants (KIs) were selected if they were members of the assessed settlement and were knowledgeable enough to report on the settlement with regards to basic services, markets, livelihood, and protection. Data collection took place between

21 July 2024 and 30 July 2024. Respondents were identified via snowballing through the KIs interviewed. Data was collected at the settlement level, i.e., the guestionnaire related to site-level humanitarian needs, not individual needs. A total of 980 key informant interviews across 299 settlements in 15 hard-to-reach districts were included in the final analysis. A target threshold of 15% of known settlements in each hard-to-reach district was set. The KIIs were aggregated at the settlement level with a minimum of 2 to 3 KIs interviewed per settlement. When there was no-consensus among the KIs from the same settlement, the results were not aggregated and thus no consensus is indicated in the response. The analysis and findings in this brief are indicative and not statistically representative of the assessed 15 hard-to-reach districts in Somalia. For more information, please see the Methodology Note.

Endnotes

- 1. MSNA 2024-Research Terms of Reference, retrieved from: https://repository.impact-initiatives.org/document/ impact/26c89413/REACH Somalia MSNA 2024 ToR External.pdf
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- 3. Logistic Cluster retrieved from: https://logie.logcluster.org/?op=som
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- 5. Preparedness Planning Needed for Potential Drought in the Eastern Horn of Africa during the October December Rainy Season, retrieved from: https://www.icpac.net/documents/892/FSNWG_La_Nina_Alert_2_August_2024.pdf
- 6. Somalia Situational report, 13 August 2024, retrieved from: https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/somalia/somalia-situation-report-13-aug-2024
- 7. AWD/Cholera Epidemiological report July, retrieved from: https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/awdcholera-weekly-epidemiological-report-epi-week-29-15-july-21-july-2024

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