# **Drought in Bay Region**

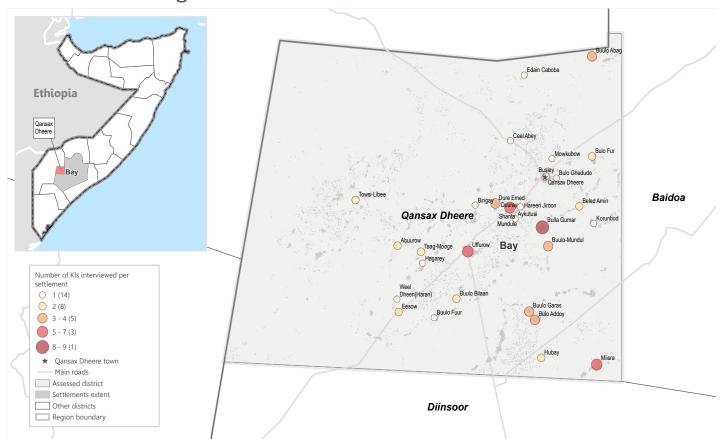
Somalia is experiencing an unprecedented <u>drought</u>, with the impact of four consecutive failed rainy seasons following the <u>2010/11</u> and <u>2016/17</u> droughts. The Bay region is one of the worst hit areas with a projected <u>39,360 people</u> facing emergency-level conditions (IPC <u>4</u>) between March 2022 and June 2022, fueled by widespread livelihood loss and an inability to access sufficient food and clean water, and health services. <u>Coping capacity</u> is further undermined by persistent insecurity and high global food prices. As a result, Global Acute Malnutrition (<u>GAM</u>) and mortality rates have reached <u>critical levels</u>. The cumulative impact has created a dire situation, forcing rural households to displace in search for humanitarian assistance or access to basic needs.

Qansax Dheere District in Bay region, which relies heavily on agriculture and livestock production, consistently records <u>high numbers of departures</u>. This could reflect worsening humanitarian conditions in the District. **To shed light on the growing needs, this factsheet zooms in on the findings from Qansax Dheere District collected through REACH's hard-to-reach (H2R) assessment**.

## Hard-to-reach (H2R) Methodology

August

The H2R assessment is based on an Area of Knowledge (AoK) methodology and provides an indicative overview of the situation in inaccessible areas of southern and central regions in Somalia. REACH collected data in Qansax Dheere District in 13 hard-to-reach settlements between 8 May 2022 and 2 June 2022, through 76 key informant (KI) interviews. The assessed settlements are spaced evenly across the District. KIs were selected based on the condition that they had either been displaced from or had visited the assessed location in the 3 months prior to data collection, or that they had regular contact with family/friends still residing in the settlement. To further triangulate KI findings, 12 focus group discussions were conducted with IDPs in Baidoa, Kismayo and Mogadishu. Indicators refer to the situation between the end of the harvest season and the last time the KI left/visited the assessed settlement, unless specified in the factsheet. The unit of analysis in this factsheet is the KI and findings refer to a proportion of the interviewed KIs.<sup>1</sup> Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the population and District. For more information, please see the Methodology Note.



### Asssessment Coverage



# 😡 Key Findings

Overall findings indicate that drought significantly impacted households in Qansax Dheere. Findings highlight the vulnerability of agro-pastoral communities who lost their income and access to food. Nearly half of interviewed KIs said that **most people lost a large proportion, if not all, of their crops**. Similar rates were found for livestock deaths. Additionally, livestock diseases were reported by 42% of KIs who also specified that the impact of livestock disease on food access was substantial. **Losses do not only affect livelihoods; they also restrict food access as own crop cultivation was the most commonly reported food source for households**.

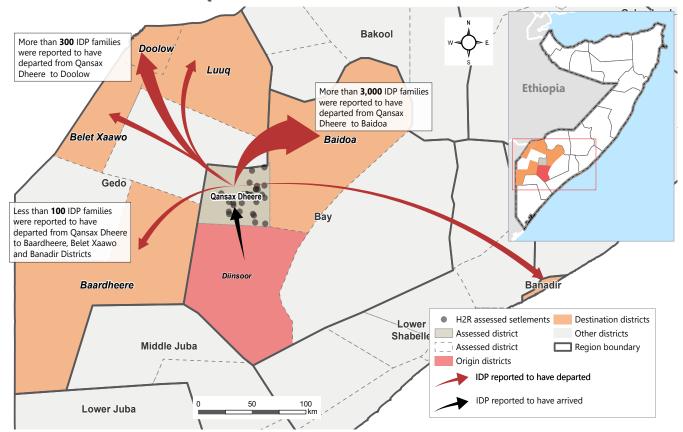
With significant cuts in food production, findings suggest that communities commonly had to rely on imported goods which are <u>unaffordable</u> to most. The vast majority of KIs (86%) indicated that **food prices increased over the reporting period**. KIs pointed out financial factors restricting access to markets. Findings suggest that markets are far away, and, in addition to not being able to afford items in the market (reported by 61% of KIs), some households reportedly also struggled to pay for transportation (reported by 27% of KIs). All the while, nearly half of KIs (48%) reported that it took households over 1 hour to reach the market on foot. **But even if markets were accessible, and items were affordable, a fifth of the interviewed KIs indicated that food was not available in markets**.

All these factors appear to have restricted food access

in Qansax Dheere which worsened over the reporting period, according to 82% of KIs. As a result, households either had to borrow food (reported by 86% of KIs) or borrow money to buy food (64%). In more extreme cases, households had to reduce consumption. Over 70% of KIs said that at least some households in the assessed settlements skipped 2 or more meals per day most of the time to cope with a lack of food. Nearly 20% of KIs said that this was the case for "many" or "all" households across settlements.

The impact of reduced food consumption was likely further aggravated by the lack of access to clean water and health services. **Over 80% of KIs said that either none or few households had access to sufficient water**. Overall, findings suggest that water was most commonly sourced from unprotected wells. **In addition, 59% of KIs reported that households that did not rely on surface water as the most common source still had to substitute their water intake by drinking surface water to meet basic water needs.** The use of <u>unimproved water sources</u> could increase household exposure to disease outbreaks.

**Over 75% of KIs indicated that households could not access any health services** with distance and insecurity reported as the main reasons. Health issues may become life-threatening when households are unable to find care which would then increase the likelihood of mortality.

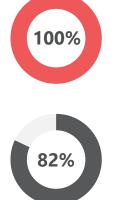


### **Movement into and out of Qansax Dheere**



# $\cancel{R}$ Displacement and Protection

Most reported main movement intentions of households that are planning to leave the



% of KI who reported drought was the primary reason why most leavers moved from the assessed location

% of KIs who reported

drought as a climatic

shock that negatively

impacted households

Reasons why most IDPs in the assessed settlements had left their previous location, by % of KIs who reported their settlement of origin hosted newly arrived IDPs (n=13)<sup>2\*</sup>

85% (11)	Food access
69% (9)	Water access
54% (7)	Security
23% (3)	Employment

Most commonly reported necessary conditions for most people to return to the assessed location, by % of KIs<sup>2</sup>

82%	Humanitarian assistance access
66%	Security
63%	Economic opportunities
62%	Basic services access



settlement, by % of KIs

Leave temporarily

Permanently abandon

25% of KIs reported disputes had taken place in their settlements of origin in the month prior to data collection.

45%

39%

Among those KIs, 64% perceived food to be among the main causes for such disputes.

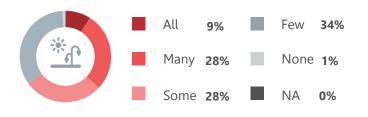


25% of KIs reported disputes had taken place in their settlement of origin in the month prior to data collection.

Among those KIs, 48% perceived water to be among the main causes for such disputes.

## 🚡 Livelihoods Access

Estimated proportion of individuals who lost their main livelihood due to drought, by % of KIs



\*This finding relates to a subset of the total sample. Findings from a sample subset with less than 30 KIs. Most commonly reported sources of livelihood for most people, by % of KIs<sup>2</sup>





Few

NA

POULTRY

33%

Estimated impact of livestock

disease outbreaks on food

**access** by % of KIs who reported

disease outbreaks (n = 31)

None 0%

25%

0%

CAMEL

26%

large 84%

Small 13%

None 3%

All

Many

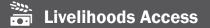
Some 30%

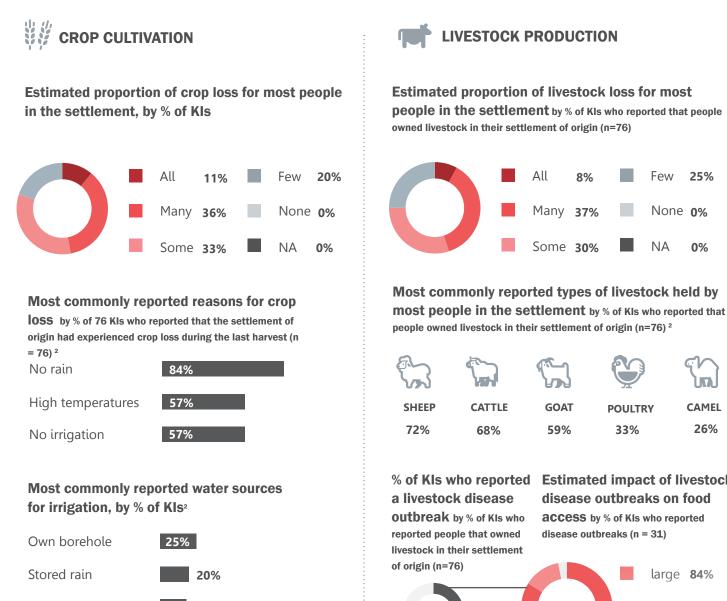
GOAT

59%

8%

37%





Well

# **Market Situation**

### Access to functioning markets, by % of KIs



18%



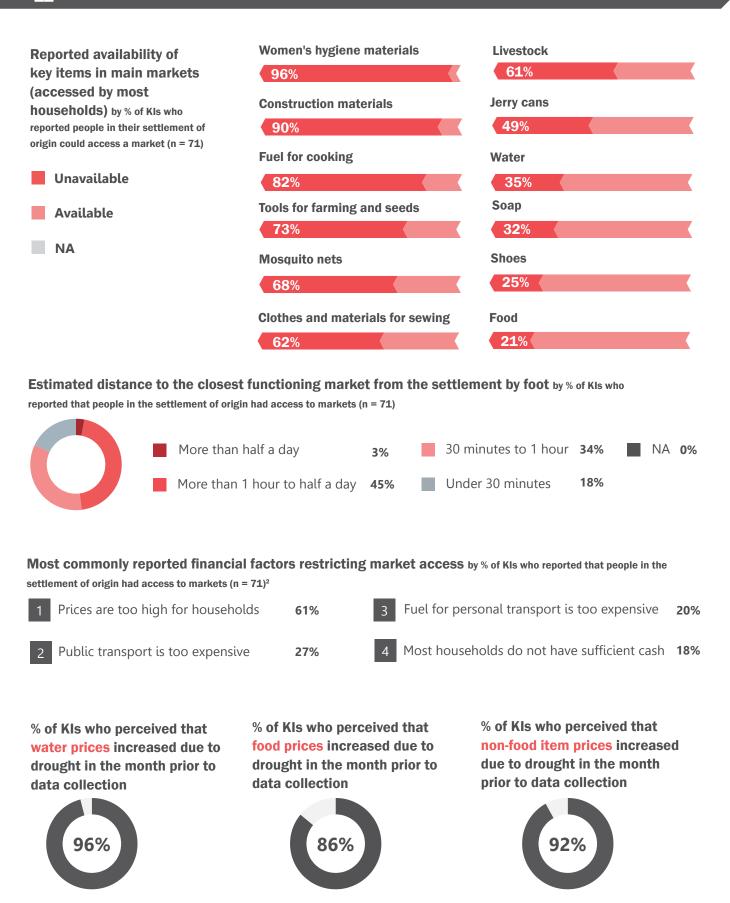
42%

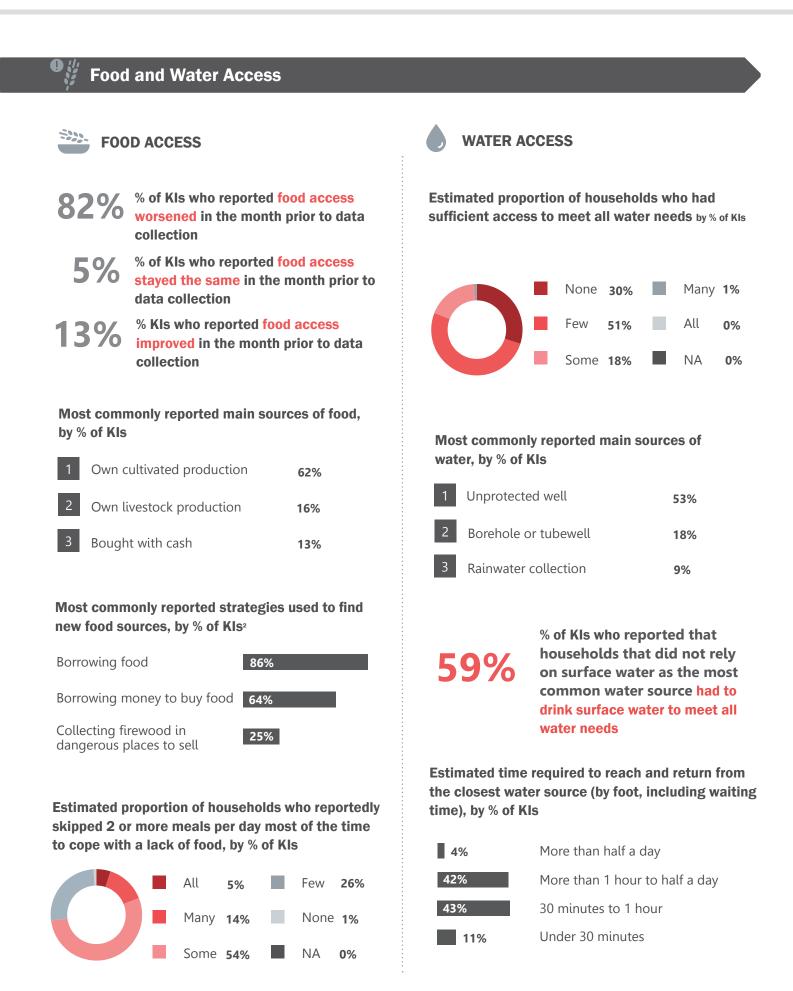
#### Markets or roads being closed was the main reason for a lack of market access in the assessed locations



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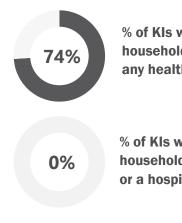
# Market Situation







### 🔁 Health Access



% of KIs who reported households could not access any health service

% of KIs who reported that households could access first aid or a hospital from their settlement Most commonly reported health barriers, by % of  $\ensuremath{\text{KIs}^2}$ 



Endnotes

1. Findings may be biased towards settlements where a higher number of KIs were interviewed.

2. KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

Due to the low number of settlements assessed (13), all findings are presented by % of KIs (76).

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