

Research Terms of Reference

Area-Based Analysis Platform (ABAP)

SOM2603

Somalia

1 July 2026

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

1. Executive Summary

Country of intervention	Somalia				
Type of Emergency	☐	Natural hazard	☐	Conflict	☒ Other (specify) Not in direct response to emergency
Type of Crisis	☐	Sudden onset	☐	Slow onset	☒ Protracted
Mandating Body/ Agency	ECHO and FCDO				
IMPACT Project Code					
Overall Research Timeframe	May 2026 – April 2027				
Research Timeframe	Data Collection		Dashboard		
	1. Pilot/ training: 07/06/2026 – 10/06/2026		1. Complete version 1 of dashboard (for internal validation): 30/07/2026		
	2. Start collect data: a) Pilot: 13/06/2026 b) R1: 07/08/2026 c) R2: 24/10/2026 d) R3: 16/01/2027		2. Roll out version 2 dashboard update (without user-driven layer): 30/08/2026		
	3. Data collected: a) Pilot: 23/06/2026 b) R1: 25/08/2026 c) R2: 24/11/2026 d) R3: 02/02/2027		3. Roll out version 3 dashboard update (with user-driven layer): 29/10/2026		
	4. Data analysed and sent for validation: a) Pilot: 05/07/2026 b) R1: 06/09/2026 c) R2: 06/12/2026 d) R3: 14/02/2027				
Number of assessments	☐	Single assessment (one cycle)			
	☒	Multi assessment (more than one cycle)			
Humanitarian milestones	Milestone		Deadline (can be tentative)		
	☐	Donor plan/strategy	_/_/_/_/_		
	☒	Inter-cluster plan/strategy	01/10/2026		
	☐	Cluster plan/strategy	_/_/_/_/_		

	☐	NGO platform plan/strategy	--/_/_/_--
	☒	Other (Specify): ABC decision-making (monthly meeting)	Monthly basis
Audience Type & Dissemination	Audience type		Dissemination
	☒	Strategic	☐ General Product Mailing (e.g. mail to NGO consortium; HCT participants; Donors)
	☒	Programmatic	☐ Cluster Mailing (Education, Shelter and WASH) and presentation of findings at next cluster meeting
	☒	Operational	☒ Presentation of findings (e.g. at HCT meeting; Cluster meeting)
	☐	[Other, Specify]	☐ Website Dissemination (Relief Web & REACH Resource Centre)
			☒ [Other, Specify]: Dashboard available to ABC facilitators and limited audience
Stakeholder mapping	☒	Yes Consultations continue being held by REACH with a wide variety of organizations, groups, and consortia. As of May 2026 this includes HCT consultants, Operational Cell, OCHA, World Food Programme, Humanitarian Access Initiative, Ground Truth Solutions, Danish Refugee Council, iMMAP, BRCiS, Caafimaad, Somali Cash Consortium.	☐ No
General Objective	To support area-based humanitarian decision-making in Somalia by providing Area Based Coordination structures (ABCs) in select priority districts with timely, structured, and locally grounded analysis of needs.		
Specific Objective(s)	- To classify needs and response triggers at an area level in the districts of interest through comprehensive analysis of available data relevant to humanitarian decision-making. - To strengthen understanding of conditions at a sub-district-level by integrating settlement-, site-, facility-, or area-level data where possible. - To assess the level of alignment between quantitative needs analysis and reported community priorities. - To support ABC facilitators and partners to interpret data through structured joint analysis, local contextualisation, and user-driven flagging. - To inform national-level needs analysis fora, JIAF/HNRP, donor fora, or any relevant area-based response prioritization		
Research Questions	- What are the main humanitarian needs, shocks, and contextual drivers affecting populations in districts with operational ABC platforms? - How do needs and conditions vary within districts, including across sub-district areas such as settlements where data is available? - What are the priority needs and preferred forms of support identified by affected communities?		

	- To what extent do community priorities align or diverge from technical severity analysis across sectors and locations? - Which areas show evidence of severe humanitarian needs across or within sectors? - Which areas show elements of resilience indicative of readiness for development activities or durable solutions to displacement? - How can available secondary data, REACH primary data, and local ABC knowledge be combined to support timely area-based decision-making? - What locations or issues require further analysis, validation, or follow-up by ABCs and humanitarian partners?			
Geographic Coverage	The ABAP is designed to cover districts in Somalia with operational Area-Based Coordination platforms. At the time of design in early 2026, the platform considers coverage of 21 ABCs in 24 districts across multiple regions and states, including: Belet Weyne, Baydhaba, Khada/Banadir, Daynille/Banadir, Afmadow, Jamaame, Johwar, Dinsoor, Qansax Dheere, Dhuusamareeb, Ceel Buur, Ceel Dheer, Baki, Borama, Galkayo (North and South), Kismayo, Luuq, Jalalaqsi, Bulo Burte, Bur Xakaba, Afgooye, Xudur, Tayeeglow, and Badhaadhe. The geographic scope may be revised as ABCs are activated, deactivated, or reprioritised by coordination structures. Data will be presented at district level and, where available, at sub-district level, including at settlement, site, catchment area, or facility level.			
Secondary data sources	Many secondary sources publicly available in Somalia have been interrupted, removed, or changed in 2025-26, with discussions ongoing in early 2026 to determine which data sources will remain available and updated. REACH is participating in and monitoring these conversations to continue updating the secondary sources feeding the ABAP, which will include: - CCCM Cluster's New Arrivals Tracking (NAT) Tool: Microsoft Power BI - CCCM Cluster's IDP Site/Service Monitoring Tracker: Microsoft Power BI - SWALIM's Drought Monitoring Tool: SWALIM - Combined Drought Index - SWALIM's Water Resources Information Management System: LiveMap :: SWIMS - ACLED's Data Explorer: Explorer ACLED - UNHCR's Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network: Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network (PSMN) Somalia - FSNAU's EW-EA: Dashboard - IPC's Malnutrition Situation: Somalia: Acute Malnutrition Situation November 2025 to January 2026 and Projections for February to March 2026 and for April to June 2026 IPC - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification - IPC's Acute Food Insecurity Situation: Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity Situation January 2026 and Projections for February to March 2026 and for April to June 2026 IPC - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification - WFP's VAM Data Visualization: DataViz - Somalia - GTM Dashboard Understanding the Path to Inclusive Aid: Key findings from the Somalia quantitative data – September 2025 — Ground Truth Solutions - State Ministry of Health disease tracking - ABC leadership and other vetted individual informants			
Population(s)	x	IDPs in camp	x	IDPs in informal sites
	x	IDPs in host communities	☐	IDPs [Other, Specify]
	x	Refugees in camp	x	Refugees in informal sites
	☐	Refugees in host communities	☐	Refugees [Other, Specify]

	☒	Host communities		☒	Populations in hard-to-reach settlements	
Stratification	☒	Geographical #:24 Districts Population size per strata is known? ☐ Yes ☒ No	☐	Group #: ___ Population size per strata is known? ☐ Yes ☐ No	☐	[Other Specify] #: ___ Population size per strata is known? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Data collection tool(s)	☒	Structured (Quantitative)		☐	Semi-structured (Qualitative)	
		Sampling method			Data collection method	
Structured data collection tool # 1		☒ Purposive ☐ Probability / Simple random ☐ Probability / Stratified simple random ☐ Probability / Cluster sampling ☐ Probability / Stratified cluster sampling ☒ Snowballing			☒ Key informant interview (Target #): 2736 (Minimum of 3 KI per settlement, and a minimum of 10%–25% coverage per district) ☐ Group discussion (Target #):_____ ☐ Household interview (Target #):_____ ☐ Individual interview (Target #):_____ ☐ Direct observations (Target #):_____ ☐ [Other, Specify] (Target #):_____ 	
Target level of precision if probability sampling		N/A % level of confidence			N/A +/- % margin of error	
Disaggregation by gender and age		Gender			Age	
	☐	Yes		☐	Yes	
	☒	No		☒	No	
Data management platform(s)	☒	IMPACT		☐	UNHCR	
	☐	[Other, Specify]				
Expected output type(s)	☐	Situation overview #: __	☒	Report #: Learning Brief: Lessons Learned on Area-Based Analysis for Decision-Making in Somalia	☐	Profile #: __
	☐	Presentation (Preliminary findings) #: N/A	☐	Presentation (Final) #: __	☐	Factsheet #: __
	☐	Interactive dashboard #:1	☐	Webmap #: N/A	☐	Map #: __
	☐	[Other, Specify] #: __				
Access	☒	Public (available on REACH resource center and other humanitarian platforms)				
	☐	Restricted (bilateral dissemination only upon agreed dissemination list, no publication on REACH or other platforms)				
Visibility						
		Coordination Framework: N/A				
		Partners: N/A				

2. Rationale

2.1 Background

Somalia continues to face a complex humanitarian situation shaped by recurrent climatic shocks, conflict and insecurity, displacement, constrained access to services, and uneven humanitarian presence across affected districts. Humanitarian needs vary considerably within districts, including between accessible urban centres, displacement sites, rural settlements, and hard-to-reach areas. This creates a persistent need for timely, area-based information that can support district-level coordination, prioritisation, and response planning.

Area-Based Coordination (ABC) platforms have been established in priority districts to strengthen locally grounded humanitarian decision-making and improve coordination between operational actors, local stakeholders, and national-level structures. However, district-level decision-making remains constrained by fragmented and infrequent data availability, inconsistent geographic granularity, and limited integration of community perspectives into routine analysis. While national-level datasets provide important situational overviews, they often do not provide sufficient sub-district detail for area-based planning, nor timely enough data to inform area-level decision-makers. District-level information is also frequently dispersed across multiple platforms, sectors, and partners, limiting its use in a structured and comparable analyses.

The Area-Based Analysis Platform (ABAP) is designed to address these gaps by collecting, managing, analysing, and visualising data relevant for district-level humanitarian decision-making in Somalia. The platform will bring together standardised secondary data, REACH primary data, and a user-driven layer based on local expertise from ABC facilitators and other vetted informants. Community priorities will remain a cross-cutting focus, ensuring that overall conclusions consider both sectoral severity measures and the needs, preferences, and priorities identified by affected communities.

The ABAP builds on lessons from the 2025 Real-Time Monitoring (RTM) pilot conducted by REACH in Jamaame and Beletweyne districts. The pilot demonstrated the value of co-creation with ABCs, while also highlighting the limitations of relying heavily on national-level datasets for district-level planning. It showed that local relevance must be balanced with standardisation, comparability, and scalability. The ABAP will therefore maintain a common area-based analysis framework across districts, while allowing ABCs to contextualise findings through structured review, local knowledge, and joint analysis.

2.2 Intended impact

The ABAP aims to strengthen evidence-based decision-making in districts with operational ABC platforms by providing a timely, structured, and accessible information system for area-based analysis. It will support ABC teams to identify priority needs, monitor changes over time, compare conditions across settlements and sectors, and link evidence more directly to coordination and response decisions.

The ABAP will consolidate secondary data, REACH primary data, and unstructured localised knowledge into a common analytical platform to strengthen district-level prioritisation and evidence-based response planning, while providing an input directly relevant to national-level needs analysis. The platform will provide ABC facilitators and members with a consolidated visual of available recent evidence, including sectoral and inter-sectoral data, contextual drivers, and community priorities. By integrating secondary data and sub-district level primary data into a common dashboard, the ABAP will help reduce information fragmentation and support more consistent interpretation of humanitarian conditions across districts.

The ABAP design is also conducive to national-level humanitarian analysis and planning. Findings and outputs may inform inter-sectoral analysis and prioritisation in JIAF and HNRP processes, donor decision-making, and area-based response planning. The platform will provide a scalable model for linking local analysis with national-

level synthesis, while ensuring that district-level realities and community perspectives are not lost in aggregated analysis.

The process will also contribute to strengthening local analytical capacity, in partnership with the Centre for Humanitarian Change (CHC) who will offer mentoring and coaching in support of evidence-based decision-making. Through periodic review meetings, user feedback, and joint analysis processes, ABC facilitators and partners will be supported to interpret platform outputs, validate emerging findings, and identify where additional follow-up or contextualisation is required. In direct complement, CHC activities will include facilitation support of ABC meetings focused on making sense of ABAP outputs and incorporating them into timely decision-making. Over time, the ABAP is expected to function as both an information management tool and an analytical support system for more locally led, evidence-based humanitarian decision-making.

3. Methodology

3.1 Methodology overview

The ABAP will use a mixed-source analysis approach combining secondary data review, REACH primary data, AoK data collection, and user-generated information from ABC leadership and other vetted informants. The platform will collect, process, and visualise data relevant to district-level and, where available, sub-district-level humanitarian analysis in Somalia.

The methodology is structured around three complementary data streams:

1. Secondary data from publicly available and partner-managed sources, including data on displacement, food security, nutrition, WASH, health, conflict, markets, shocks, and vulnerability. These sources will be processed into a common analytical structure and integrated into the dashboard on a regular basis, depending on availability. In addition, to the components calculated within the needs analysis framework, information on resilience and community priorities will be compiled and presented where available.
2. REACH data, including relevant MSNA findings, ad hoc assessments, and ABAP-specific primary data collection. To fill identified sub-district information gaps, REACH will conduct remote key informant interviews using an AoK approach. Key informants will provide information on conditions, needs, priorities, and changes in selected settlements or areas of knowledge, including in locations where household-level or direct data collection is not feasible.
3. A user-driven layer allowing trained ABC facilitators and mentors to flag geo-located recent events based on unstructured localized knowledge. This layer is added to as needed in real time by trained ABC facilitators and is intended to add to the needs analysis relevant developments that may not yet be reflected in formal datasets, such as sudden shocks, access changes, localised conflict dynamics, service disruption, or emerging community concerns in a dynamic context.

The ABAP will be developed iteratively. Initial phases will focus on compiling and visualising available secondary data, followed by integration of REACH primary data and ABAP-specific data collection. Subsequent phases will

test and refine the user-driven flagging layer with selected ABCs before broader rollout. Structured feedback from ABC facilitators, partners, and technical stakeholders will be used to refine the dashboard, analytical framework, and decision-support functions

Key topic areas and analytical framework

The ABAP analytical framework is centred around the key analytical areas in Table 1 to support interpretation of needs, risks, and response implications at district and sub-district level.

Table 1: Key analytical areas covered across the ABAP framework

Key topic area	Description
Mortality	Captures mortality outcomes as a core indicator of acute humanitarian severity and potential deterioration.
Health	Covers public health conditions, disease burden, outbreak risks, and access to essential health services.
Nutrition	Covers acute malnutrition conditions and the availability of nutrition services for affected populations.
Food security	Covers the severity and projected evolution of food insecurity and related household stress.
Conflict and violence	Covers insecurity, violence, and conflict-related disruption affecting safety, access, services, and livelihoods.
Economy and markets	Covers market conditions, household purchasing power, price pressure, and economic coping capacity.
Displacement and shelter	Covers population movement, displacement-related needs, site conditions, shelter adequacy, and access to basic household items.
WASH	Covers water access, sanitation conditions, hygiene-related risks, and functionality of WASH infrastructure.
Environmental shocks	Covers drought, flooding, rainfall, riverine hazards, and other environmental pressures affecting communities and services.

Within the framework, the severity needs analysis is comprised of three areas: sectoral data, shocks, and vulnerabilities. The elements of each are found in Tables 2-4, below.

Table 2: Sectors

Sub-sectors	Description
Mortality	Captures recent all-cause mortality, under-five mortality, and violent fatalities over the past 30 days. This sub-pillar supports identification of locations where mortality outcomes may indicate severe deterioration or acute protection/public health risks.
Health	Assesses recent morbidity among children under five, including AWD, ARI, measles, and other common childhood illnesses, alongside evidence of uncontrolled outbreaks. It also considers the presence and accessibility of functional health facilities.
Nutrition	Tracks acute malnutrition severity through available IPC AMN classifications and the presence of functional stabilisation centres and outpatient therapeutic programmes. This sub-pillar supports identification of areas where nutrition outcomes and service availability indicate elevated risk.
Food security	Assesses the severity and projected evolution of acute food insecurity through IPC AFI scores for the current and following quarter. This sub-pillar supports monitoring of areas facing current or anticipated food consumption gaps and livelihood stress.

CCCM	Assesses the presence and location of IDP sites, number of households hosted, recent arrivals, reasons for displacement, and immediate needs among newly arrived households. This sub-pillar supports analysis of site-level pressure, displacement-related needs, and service gaps.
Shelter & NFI	Tracks the share of households living in inadequate shelter and households reporting lack of basic non-food items. This sub-pillar supports identification of areas where living conditions expose households to weather, protection, health, or dignity risks.
Protection, including CP / GBV / HR	Captures safety perceptions, movement restrictions, avoidance of unsafe areas by women and girls, and the proportion of displaced children. This sub-pillar supports identification of protection risks, mobility constraints, and groups potentially exposed to heightened harm.
Education	Assesses school attendance among school-aged children, presence of functional primary schools, school closures due to conflict, flooding, or displacement, and availability of clean water or gender-segregated latrines in schools. This sub-pillar supports analysis of education access and school functionality.
Markets / Economics	Tracks market pressure through changes in the minimum food expenditure basket, drinking water prices, fuel prices, terms of trade, price spike alerts, and household ability to access food on credit. It also considers local governance or community structures such as village development committees or elders' councils where relevant to economic coping and local response capacity.
WASH	Assesses the functionality and location of water sources, reliance on unimproved drinking or cooking water, sanitation access, environmental sanitation problems, and travel or queue time to water points. This sub-pillar supports analysis of water access, sanitation conditions, and WASH-related health risks.

Table 3: Shocks

Sub-pillar	Description
Conflict	Captures the number of conflict incidents and violent fatalities recorded over the past 30 days. This sub-pillar supports identification of areas where insecurity may be driving displacement, restricting access, disrupting services, or increasing protection risks.
Natural disasters	Tracks drought severity through the Combined Drought Index, direction of drought change, expected rainfall, open river breakages, overflows, and potential flood points. This sub-pillar supports monitoring of environmental hazards that may affect livelihoods, water access, displacement, infrastructure, and service continuity.
Displacement	Assesses new arrivals during the previous month, changes compared with the previous month, reasons for displacement, and priority needs among displaced populations. This sub-pillar supports analysis of displacement pressure, population movement, and related humanitarian needs.

Table 4: Vulnerabilities

Component	Description
Household demographics	Captures household-level vulnerability factors, including child-headed households, female-headed households, and households headed by persons with disabilities. These indicators help identify population groups that may face increased exposure to shocks or reduced capacity to cope.
IDP population	Tracks the proportion of the district population displaced within the last three years. This component supports interpretation of displacement concentration, demographic pressure, and potential service demand.
Longitudinal food insecurity	Captures longer-term food insecurity patterns using the mean IPC AFI score over the past five years. This component helps distinguish acute deterioration from areas with chronic or recurrent food security stress.

Each area is comprised of multiple key indicators. Data associated with each indicator is assessed against a pre-defined threshold and contributes to a categorisation of the severity of needs (no data, no assessed needs, acute needs, severe acute needs) for each area. Finally, these area categorisations will contribute to an overall severity band for the unit of analysis (severity A-F, in descending order of severity).

Additional analytical areas, including resilience (Table 5) and community priorities (Table 6), will be used to interpret where results of technical needs analysis align or diverge from community-identified priorities and preferences, and assess readiness for development or durable solutions

Table 5: Resilience

Component	Description
Adaptive capacity	Assesses the ability of households and communities to adjust to changing conditions, including through livelihood adaptation, access to markets, social structures, and coping options. This component helps interpret whether communities have pathways to manage repeated shocks without further deterioration.
Transformative capacity	Assesses the extent to which local systems, institutions, and services can support longer-term change, recovery, or reduced dependency on humanitarian assistance. This component helps identify whether an area has enabling conditions for more durable or recovery-oriented support.

Table 6: Community Priorities

Component	Description
Needs	Most prominent issues and interventions prioritized by the community.
Modality	Preferred ways of receiving interventions.
Communication	Preferred information channels and trusted actors.

3.2 Population of interest

The population of interest includes crisis-affected populations living in districts with operational ABC platforms in Somalia. This includes host communities, internally displaced persons, returnees, and other population groups affected by humanitarian shocks, service access constraints, displacement, or protection risks within the selected districts.

The geographic scope of the ABAP will focus on UN-OCHA priority districts with operational ABCs. At time of design in early 2026, this includes 21 ABCs covering approximately 24 districts, with the final list subject to change based on ABC activation, deactivation, and prioritisation. The platform is intended to remain adaptable to changes in the ABC architecture and may expand to additional districts if new ABCs become operational.

The assessment is stratified at the district level. For AoK data collection, the unit of measurement is the settlement, with information provided by key informants selected based on their knowledge of the target location. Settlement data represents the primary unit of analysis and is subsequently aggregated to the district level for reporting. Where available, the ABAP will integrate more granular interpretation of conditions within districts

The ABAP will not aim to produce statistically representative household-level findings across all districts. Instead, it will consolidate multiple data sources to provide timely, structured, and contextually grounded evidence for area-based decision-making. Where data is indicative, non-representative, geographically incomplete, or time-bound, this will be clearly reflected in the platform and associated analytical outputs.

Table 7: Targeted districts

Region	State	District
Awdal	Somaliland	Borama
		Baki
Bakool	South West	Xudur
		Tayeeglow
Banaadir	Banaadir Regional Administration	Khada
		Daynille
Bay	South West	Baydhaba
		Dinsoor
		Qansax Dheere
		Bur Xakaba
Galgadud	Galmudug	Dhuusamareeb
		Ceel Buur
		Ceel Dheer
Gedo	Jubaland	Luuq
Hiran	Hirshabelle	Belet Weyne*
		Jalalaqsi
		Bulo Burte
Lower Juba	Jubaland	Afmadow
		Jamaame*
		Kismayo
		Badhadhe
Lower Shabelle	South West	Afgooye
Middle Shabelle	Hirshabelle	Johwar
Mudug	Puntland	Galkayo North
	Galmudug	Galkayo South

*District ABCs who participated in the RTM 2025-2026.

3.3 Secondary data review

Secondary data will be reviewed on a quarterly basis to support the ABAP dashboard, analytical framework, and interpretation of findings. The ABAP will be refreshed with a quarterly update, while previous data will remain stored and available for user reference. Sources will be assessed based on relevance, timeliness, geographic coverage, unit of analysis, and suitability for district or sub-district analysis. Primary and secondary data included in the ABAP

update will generally be no more than three months old from the date of completed collection, unless the source provides structural or contextual information that remains relevant beyond this period.

Table 8: Secondary data sources

Source	Intended use in the ABAP
IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, including Emergency Trend Tracking	To monitor displacement trends, population movement, settlement-level displacement dynamics, and changes in displacement patterns.
CCCM Cluster New Arrivals Tracking and IDP Site/Service Monitoring	To inform analysis of new arrivals, site conditions, service availability, and displacement-site needs.
SWALIM Combined Drought Index and water resources platforms	To monitor drought conditions, water availability, environmental stress, and climate-related shocks.
ACLED conflict data and other conflict/security monitoring sources	To track conflict incidents, violence, insecurity, and related access or protection implications.
UNHCR Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network	To inform protection, displacement, return, and solutions-related analysis.
FSNAU early warning and food security information	To support food security, livelihoods, market, and early warning analysis.
IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition analyses	To inform severity analysis related to food insecurity and acute malnutrition.
WFP VAM and other food security monitoring products	To triangulate food security, market, and household vulnerability indicators.
Ground Truth Solutions and partner community feedback data	To support integration of community priorities, perceptions, trust, and accountability-related findings.
Health Cluster bulletins and Ministry of Health disease surveillance	To monitor morbidity trends, disease outbreaks, health service pressure, and public health risks.
SMART surveys and other nutrition assessments	To triangulate acute malnutrition findings and identify areas requiring nutrition-related follow-up.
REACH Multi-Sector Needs Assessment	To provide comparable multisectoral indicators and contextual analysis for assessed districts.
REACH Humanitarian Situation Monitoring	To fill information gaps in hard-to-reach or under-assessed locations and support trend analysis.
Operational presence and partner activity data	To compare needs, service availability, and response capacity across districts and settlements.

3.4 Implementation Plan

To ensure a well-structured model, iterative improvements, and smooth rollout, the ABAP will be developed in phased steps. The implementation approach will prioritise the establishment of a functional dashboard, gradual expansion of data sources, structured testing with ABC stakeholders, and progressive integration of user-driven contextual inputs. This phased process will allow the platform to be refined based on technical review, ABC feedback, data availability, and operational feasibility before wider use.

1. **Development of dashboard incorporating key secondary data into needs analysis**

The first phase will focus on establishing the core ABAP dashboard using publicly available secondary data sources. This will provide an initial evidence base for district and sub-district-level needs analysis and understanding of resilience and community priorities.

Key activities:

- Assigning team roles and responsibilities, including key focal points and a sustainability plan for continued platform management.
- Identifying relevant publicly available secondary data sources and other REACH assessments for inclusion, in consultation with key partners where appropriate.
- Developing a living conceptual framework based on selected secondary data sources, including: indicators organised by source, sector, pillar, and topic area; an analysis plan for converting data into user-facing outputs; geographic and temporal constraints linked to each data source.
- Selecting a platform to design, host, and maintain the dashboard, with consideration of interoperability with existing coordination and information management systems.
- Drafting a data analysis plan documenting the analytical framework, data source inclusion criteria, processing logic, and known limitations.
- Developing an interactive dashboard where selected indicators and outputs are visualised.
- Testing the dashboard internally, with a structured feedback and revision period.
- Validating the dashboard structure and methods with relevant internal and coordination stakeholders.

2. **Expansion to primary data sources and rollout to ABCs**

The second phase will expand the platform beyond secondary data by incorporating relevant REACH datasets and ABAP-specific primary data collection, then roll it out to ABC partners. This phase will strengthen the platform's sub-district relevance and link it to area-based decision-making processes.

Key activities:

- Integrating primary data collected through the AoK approach into the conceptual framework, targeting selected settlements across the ABC districts.
- Ensuring that primary data is processed, cleaned, and structured consistently with the ABAP analytical framework.
- Incorporating primary data into the dashboard in a way that clearly distinguishes between representative, indicative, secondary, and key informant-based data.
- Testing the integration of REACH and ABAP primary data internally, with a feedback and revision period.
- Rolling out the initial dashboard to selected ABC partners, with a structured feedback period to assess usability, relevance, and decision-making value.
- Establishing, where feasible, automated or semi-automated data collation processes to support regular updates from selected secondary data sources.

3. Integration of a user-driven flagging and contextualisation layer

The third phase will incorporate a user-driven flagging layer through which trained ABC facilitators can add contextual flags to the dashboard based on unstructured local knowledge or emerging information not reflected in formal datasets. This layer will support timely identification of localised deterioration, sudden shocks, access constraints, service disruption, or other developments relevant to ABC decision-making.

Key activities:

- Defining categories of user-generated flags and clear conditions for their use.
- Establishing a simple monitoring system to track user training, refresher sessions, check-ins, platform use, and required system improvements.
- Designing and testing a user interface that allows selected users to submit plain text information and geo-location.
- Training selected ABC facilitators on how to upload flags, document rationale, and use the feature towards decision-making.
- Periodically, reviewing user-submitted information to determine whether it remains relevant, requires follow-up, or should be cleared.
- Pushing the dashboard update with user-driven layer into the dashboard.
- Periodically, using feedback from ABC facilitators and partners to improve flagging categories, usability, moderation, and links to joint analysis processes.

3.5 Primary Data Collection

Primary data collection will be conducted to strengthen the availability of sub-district level information in the 21 districts currently covered by the ABAP. The data collection will complement existing secondary data and REACH assessment data by filling selected geographic and thematic gaps, particularly in areas where available datasets are outdated, incomplete, or insufficiently granular for area-based decision-making.

In each of the assessed districts, approximately 25% of settlements will be targeted for primary data collection. The sample will include both inaccessible and accessible settlements in approximately equal proportion where feasible in order to ensure that the data avoids representation bias linked to level of accessibility or urban/rural settlement type. Final settlements included will be a result of meeting the threshold of a minimum of three eligible and complete KI interviews for the settlement.

Primary data will be collected through using an AoK approach, using key informants with knowledge of the selected settlements. A minimum of three key informant interviews will be conducted for each settlement, aiming for diversity across gender, age, displacement condition, and wealth profile. Key informants may include individuals currently residing in the target settlement, recently displaced persons, service providers, community representatives, local authorities, or other individuals with direct and recent knowledge of conditions in the area. Data collection will primarily be conducted remotely by phone, particularly for inaccessible settlements. For accessible locations, data collection may be conducted remotely or in person depending on operational feasibility, access, and security considerations. KI's will be identified through a KI database including contact information for eligible respondents by settlement, developed before data collection and iteratively adapted throughout by field teams. Snowball sampling will feed database growth, conducted through questions at the end of the data collection tool.

The data collection will focus on settlement-level conditions, needs, shocks, service access, community priorities, and recent changes affecting the population. Information collected will feed into the ABAP dashboard and will be analysed alongside secondary data, existing REACH datasets, and user-driven contextual inputs from ABC facilitators and other vetted local informants. Findings from the primary data collection will be treated as indicative and used to support area-based analysis, identify emerging concerns, validate or contextualise secondary data, and inform ABC-led joint analysis and prioritisation processes.

The final list of settlements to be targeted will be determined based on district-level settlement lists, accessibility classifications, known information gaps, operational feasibility, and consultation with relevant coordination actors and ABC facilitators. Where access conditions or information gaps change during the pilot period, the settlement selection may be revised to ensure that data collection remains relevant to ABAP analytical needs and area-based decision-making.

Table 9: Target settlements per district

District	Total number of settlements	Target number of settlements (25% of the total settlements)
Afgooye	326	82
Afmadow	207	52
Badhadhe	78	20
Baydhaba	358	90
Belet Weyne	164	41
Baki	48	12
Borama	104	26

Bulo Burte	156	39
Bur Xakaba	607	152
Daynille	3	3
Dhuusamareeb	56	14
Ceel Buur	48	12
Ceel Dheer	32	8
Dinsoor	97	25
Galkayo North & South	125	32
Jalalaqsi	77	20
Jamaame	91	23
Johwar	318	80
Khada	5	5
Kismayo	89	23
Luuq	177	45
Qansax Dheere	113	29
Xudur	120	30
Tayeeglow	196	49
Total	3595	912

*In districts with less than 6 recognized settlements, sampling will cover 100% of settlements.

Table 10: Target KIs per district

District	Total number of KIs
Afgooye	246
Afmadow	156
Badhadhe	60
Baydhaba	270
Belet Weyne	123
Baki	36
Borama	78
Bulo Burte	117
Bur Xakaba	456
Daynille	9
Dhuusamareeb	42
Ceel Buur	36
Ceel Dheer	24
Dinsoor	75
Galkayo North & South	96
Jalalaqsi	60
Jamaame	69
Johwar	240
Khada	15
Kismayo	69
Luuq	135
Qansax Dheere	87
Xudur	90
Tayeeglow	147
Total	2736

3.6 Dashboard

The ABAP dashboard will serve as the main platform for consolidating, visualising, and accessing area-based analysis for districts with operational ABCs. It will bring together publicly available secondary data, REACH data, ABAP primary data collection, and user-driven contextual inputs into a single interactive interface. The dashboard is intended to support rapid access to district-level and, where available, sub-district-level information on humanitarian needs, shocks, community priorities, service access, and response-relevant conditions.

The dashboard will initially display selected publicly available secondary data sources, organised according to the ABAP analytical framework. Indicators will be structured by source, sector, pillar, topic area, geography, and date of collection. Where possible, the dashboard will allow users to view information by district and sub-district location, including settlement, site, facility, or area-of-knowledge level. This structure will support comparison across locations while documenting geographic and temporal constraints linked to each data source. As the platform develops, the dashboard will be expanded to include REACH and ABAP primary data. This will include relevant MSNA, HSM, ad hoc assessment data, and ABAP-specific data collected through the Area of Knowledge approach. Primary data will be integrated in a way that distinguishes between representative, indicative, secondary, and key informant-based information, ensuring that users can interpret findings according to the methodology and limitations of each source.

The dashboard will also include a user-driven flagging and contextualisation layer. Users - selected trained ABC facilitators - will be able to submit local contextual information, including plain text inputs and pinned location data, to highlight emerging shocks, access constraints, service disruptions, localised deterioration, or other developments not yet captured in formal datasets. Flags will be categorised by sector at the point of data entry, and will appear as an additional layer on the dashboard external to the quantitative needs analysis. User-generated flags will be reviewed periodically to determine whether they remain relevant, require follow-up, or should be removed from the platform.

The dashboard will be designed to support ABC-led joint analysis rather than replace it. Outputs will be used by ABC facilitators and partners to review source data, identify emerging patterns, compare quantitative needs analysis with community priorities, and determine where further validation or follow-up is required. Where technical severity and community priorities align, the dashboard can support prioritisation with greater confidence. Where they diverge, the dashboard will help flag potential misalignment for further discussion during ABC review or joint analysis sessions.

Dashboard development will follow an iterative process. The initial version will be tested internally, revised through a structured feedback period, and then shared with selected ABC partners for usability and relevance review. Feedback from ABC facilitators, partners, and platform users will inform improvements to the dashboard structure, indicator presentation, flagging categories, and links between data visualisation and decision-making. Where feasible, automated or semi-automated data ingestion processes will be established to support regular updates from selected secondary data sources.

3.7 Data Processing & Analysis

Data processing and analysis will be conducted on a quarterly basis. Secondary, REACH, and user-sourced data will be reviewed, cleaned, standardised, and organised according to the ABAP analytical framework before inclusion in the platform. Data will be assessed for date of collection, geographic coverage, methodology, unit of analysis, population coverage, and relevance to the ABAP pillars and context drivers. Where feasible, datasets will be harmonised to support comparison across districts and, where available, sub-district locations.

The ABAP will organise data within key sectors, and across sectors in comparison with community priorities. Key areas of analysis will include morbidity and mortality, nutrition, food security, displacement and shelter, WASH, protection, education, conflict and violence, environmental shocks, markets, vulnerabilities, resilience, durable solutions, and community priorities. The platform will visualise data at district level and, where data allows, at sub-district level.

Primary data collected for the ABAP will use an AoK approach to fill selected sub-district information gaps. KI data will be processed and aggregated at the settlement level, then further aggregated for dashboard display at a grid-based (10k2) area level. Key informant data will be processed and analysed as indicative evidence on conditions, needs, priorities, and changes in specific areas. Findings from this data stream will be one input to quantitative needs analysis, alongside secondary data and other REACH data sources.

Analysis outputs will support comparison between technical severity analysis and community priorities. Where technically assessed needs and community priorities align, this may strengthen confidence in the prioritisation of needs and ultimately support effectiveness of response. Where they diverge, the platform will flag potential misalignment for further discussion, validation, or deep-dive analysis by ABC facilitators and partners. This process is intended to ensure that ABAP outputs are not only technically sound but also grounded in community perspectives and area-level knowledge.

3.8 Limitations

The ABAP will depend on multiple data sources with different methodologies, geographic coverage, population coverage, and update frequencies. As a result, findings may not be directly comparable across all districts, sectors, or sub-district locations. Some datasets may be representative at national, regional, district, site, or facility level, while others may be indicative or based on administrative, partner-reported, or key informant data.

Data availability at sub-district level is expected to remain uneven. Some districts may have more complete data due to stronger partner presence, recent assessments, or better access, while other areas may have limited or outdated information. Hard-to-reach locations may be underrepresented in available datasets, and the ABAP may therefore provide a stronger evidence base for accessible locations than others. To address this in part, sampling for the ABAP primary data collection favours inaccessible districts.

Primary data collected through the AoK approach will provide indicative information and will not produce statistically representative household-level findings. Key informant data may reflect the knowledge, perceptions, and access of selected informants, and may not fully capture the experiences of all population groups in a settlement or district, including gender, age, and ability level. Findings from this data stream should therefore be interpreted alongside secondary data, localised knowledge, and ABC validation processes. To address this in part, the user-driven flagging layer of the ABAP will incorporate elements of localised knowledge. Additionally, REACH's collaboration with CHC will facilitate interpretation using the ABAP as the basis for structured local sense-making.

The user-driven flagging layer will help incorporate local knowledge and emerging developments, but they may vary in detail, timeliness, and methodological strength. To address this, user inputs will be limited to trained or vetted users, reviewed periodically, and documented through a clear rationale where they are used to contextualise the analysis. Time-sensitive user-sourced information will require regular review to confirm whether it remains relevant.

The ABAP should not be interpreted as a substitute for dedicated sectoral assessments, household surveys, protection monitoring, nutrition surveys, or operational assessments. Rather, it is intended to consolidate available evidence, identify patterns and gaps, and support structured area-based decision-making. Where evidence is

incomplete, inconsistent, or insufficient, the platform should be used to identify priorities for follow-up analysis, validation, or additional data collection.

4. Key ethical considerations and related risks

The proposed research design meets / does not meet the following criteria:

The proposed research design...	Yes/ No	Details if no (including mitigation)
... Has been coordinated with relevant stakeholders to avoid unnecessary duplication of data collection efforts?	Yes	Information sharing and rationalization discussions performed with: OCHA, IOM, FAO, WFP, DRC, iMMAP, SCC, BRCiS, Caafimaad, HCT advisory actors, Operational Cell, HAI, Ground Truth Solutions, Somali Cash Consortium
... Respects respondents, their rights and dignity (<i>specifically by: seeking informed consent, designing length of survey/ discussion while being considerate of participants' time, ensuring accurate reporting of information provided</i>)?	Yes	
... Does not expose data collectors to any risks as a direct result of participation in data collection?	Yes	
... Does not expose respondents / their communities to any risks as a direct result of participation in data collection?	Yes	
... Does not involve collecting information on specific topics which may be stressful and/ or re-traumatizing for research participants (both respondents and data collectors)?	Yes	
... Does not involve data collection with minors i.e. anyone less than 18 years old?	Yes	
... Does not involve data collection with other vulnerable groups e.g. persons with disabilities, victims/ survivors of protection incidents, etc.?	Yes	Members of vulnerable groups may be involuntarily selected as KIs, but risk will be mitigated by applying standard safeguarding and do-no-harm processes.
... Follows IMPACT SOPs for management of personally identifiable information ?	Yes	

5. Roles and responsibilities

Task Description	Responsible	Accountable	Consulted	Informed
Framework design and methodology development	REACH SOM Analysis Unit	REACH SOM Coordination	CHC; OCHA; ABC facilitator; clusters/sector partners	Donors
District selection and ABC engagement	REACH SOM Analysis Unit; CHC	REACH SOM Coordination; CHC	ABC facilitators; ABC mentors; OCHA / Operational Cell	Donors
Secondary data compilation and quality review	REACH SOM Analysis Unit	REACH SOM Coordination	n/a	Donors; ABC members
Primary data collection and integration	REACH SOM Analysis Unit	REACH SOM Coordination	ABC Facilitators	CHC; donors
Dashboard development, data processing, and visualisation	REACH SOM Analysis Unit	REACH SOM Coordination	CHC; OCHA; ABC facilitators; clusters/sector partners	Donors; ABC members
ABC joint analysis, validation, and contextualisation	ABC facilitators; CHC	ABC facilitators	REACH; ABC members; local partners; OCHA; clusters/sector partners	Donors
User-driven flagging and community-priority comparison	ABC facilitators; REACH SOM Analysis Unit	ABC facilitators	CHC; ABC members; OCHA	Donors
Analytical outputs, uptake, and platform improvement	REACH SOM Analysis Unit	REACH SOM Coordination	CHC; ABC facilitators; clusters/sector partners; local partners	Donors; ABC members

Responsible: the person(s) who executes the task

Accountable: the person who validates the completion of the task and is accountable of the final output or milestone

Consulted: the person(s) who must be consulted when the task is implemented

Informed: the person(s) who need to be informed when the task is completed

6. Data Analysis Plan

The Data Analysis Plan (DAP) can be found in a separate validated document.