HSM: Drought in Jamaame District ZOOM IN Lower-Juba Region, Somalia

Drought in the Lower-Juba Region

Somalia is currently experiencing a <u>severe humanitarian crisis</u>. During the latest Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) food security analysis, pockets of famine (IPC Phase 5) were projected in parts of southern Somalia in April-June 2023. **Prolonged drought is one of the key drivers, with Somalia facing a fifth consecutive season of drought due to poor October – December rains.** Rainfall totals in most of the southern parts of Somalia were 10-50 mm below average, particularly in Lower Juba and southern Gedo regions, and the reduced rainfall is <u>likely to continue during the March-May 2023 rainy season</u>.

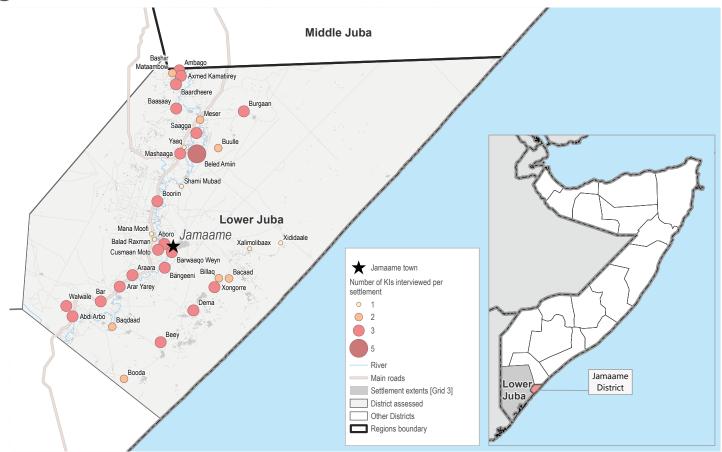
Jamaame district, in the Lower Juba region, which relies primarily on pastoral livelihoods, has been heavily hit by these successive poor rainy seasons. The district was projected to be facing crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity between December 2022 and March 2023 and April to June 2023. However, due to a lack of data from hard-to-reach areas, isolated populations may be facing worse conditions. Rural areas of Jamaame are among the most inaccessible and isolated areas in the Lower Juba region, and food among other humanitarian needs may be the most acute there. To help inform humanitarian planning, this factsheet relies on findings on Jamaame District, collected through REACH's Humanitarian Situation Monitoring (HSM) assessment in hard-to-reach areas.

Methodology

The HSM assessment is based on an Area of Knowledge (AoK) methodology and provides an indicative overview of the humanitarian needs in inaccessible areas of the southern and central regions in Somalia. From 16 October to 6 November 2022, REACH interviewed 85 key informants (KIs) with recent knowledge of the situation in 34 hard-to-reach settlements in Jamaame Districts. KIs had either been displaced from or had visited the assessed location in the 3 months prior to data collection, or had regular contact with family/friends who are still residing in the settlement. To further triangulate KI reporting, 12 focus group discussions were conducted with IDPs in Baidoa, Kismayo, and Mogadishu.

Findings refer to the situation in the assessed settlements during the last time the KI visited/left the settlement (August to October/November 2022), unless otherwise specified. The unit of analysis in this factsheet is the KI and findings refer to a proportion of the interviewed KIsa, thereby measuring individuals' perceptions of the situation in a hard-to-reach settlement. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across all hard-to-reach areas or districts. For more information, please see the Methodology Note. a.b.c.

© Coverage Map for Jamaame



Key Findings

Overall findings suggest that access to food, water and basic services is limited in the assessed settlements in Jamaame district. Almost all KIs (98%) reported that droughts and irregular rains causing prolonged dry spells were a major shock that affected assessed settlements in Jamaame district in the three months prior to data collection (August - October 2022)^c. FEWSNET¹ complements these findings by recording zero precipitation during the Deyr rainy season over the same period in the Lower Juba region of Somalia.

Findings suggest that successive failed rainy seasons in the region have disrupted agropastoral practices of communities living in the assessed settlements. Roughly two-thirds of KIs (71%) reported community in the assessed settlements depended on both cultivation and livestock as a livelihood source (n=60). All (100%) of KIs who reported farming as the only livelihood source (n=20) reported loss of crops during the last harvest season, while those who reported livestock as the only livelihood source in the assessed settlements (n=4) perceived that there had been a decrease in livestock. FGD participants reported that the recurrent droughts were suppressing agricultural and livestock activities, which then reportedly curtailed income generation in hard-to-reach districts. Lower yields for the last Gue rain season were reported by all (100%) of KIs reporting farming as the only livelihood source (n=20), while 65% of the KIs who report farming as the only livelihood reported that lack of irrigation water was the main reason most farmers were unable to plant that season. In addition, the majority (80%) of KIs depending on farming as their livelihood reported that all or almost all crops were lost for most farmers during the harvest season in Jamaame district. This was mainly due to the droughts and lack of rain, as reported by 90% of these KIs.

Access to food is perceived to have worsened between August and October 2022, according to all (100%) KIs from Jamaame district. The vast majority (84%) of KIs reported that hunger was the worst it could be for most households, and according to some FGD participants, hunger was even more severe than during the most recent drought in 2017², when Jamaame district was facing crisis food security outcomes. KIs commonly reported that people resorted to severe livelihood coping strategies, such as borrowing food and collecting firewood in dangerous places. Moreover, nearly one-third (30%) of KIs who reported a market was accessible from the settlement (n=66) reported that food was not available at the main market. These findings are supported by the IPC Food Insecurity Snapshot in October 20223, according to which the current drought is among the worst in a decade, causing widespread crop failure and

livestock deaths, depriving people of food and income.

People are reportedly exhausting their coping strategies to deal with insufficient access to water in the assessed settlements. Almost all KIs (99%), reported that households in the assessed settlements in Jamaame reduced water consumption due to insufficient access to water. This lack of water is a likely consequence of successive failed rainy seasons. These findings are triangulated by a WASH Cluster update from October 20224, according to which there are severe water shortages particularly in rural/hard-to-reach areas and among IDPs in Jamaame - among other districts.

Findings suggest that drought and conflict were the main drivers of this displacement. The majority of KIs (85%) reported that drought was the primary reason why most people moved out of their settlements of origin, while 15% of them reported conflict or insecurity as the primary reason. These findings are supported by FSNAU⁵, which reported that drought and conflict are leading to further population displacements from rural areas to IDP settlements in urban towns and cities. Almost all KIs (98%) reported that there were people in the assessed settlements who wanted to leave but could not do so. Some of the most common movement barriers reported were that people were unable to afford transportation (78%), too weak to travel (47%) or unable to afford checkpoint fees (33%). FGD participants displaced from districts around Kismaayo commonly reported intending to remain in their current settlement due to insecurity and a lack of access to humanitarian assistance in the assessed settlements.

Jamaame district is reported to have high access constraints for humanitarian agencies by OCHA's access working group⁶. In line with this, all KIs (100%), reported that no people in the assessed settlement had received assistance since the last time they had left or visited the settlement (August-October 2022°). During the same period, all KIs (100%), also reported that no people in the assessed settlements had received information from NGOs about humanitarian assistance available in the area, if any. The most reported reason for not receiving assistance was insecurity, as reported by 49% of KIs. In contrast, 81% of households from accessible districts across the country interviewed during the 2022 Somalia Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA)⁷ reported not having experienced any barriers accessing humanitarian assistance. Considering the lack of access to basic needs and assistance in the assessed hard-to-reach areas in Jamaame indicated by the findings, continuous monitoring of the situation in the district is required to avoid further information gaps and facilitate access to humanitarian assistance.

¹ FEWSNET (Famine Early Warning Systems Network) - Remote-sensing rainfall estimates, Somalia, December 2022.

² 2017: THE NEW "WORST DROUGHT IN DECADES"

³ Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity Snapshot I October 2022.

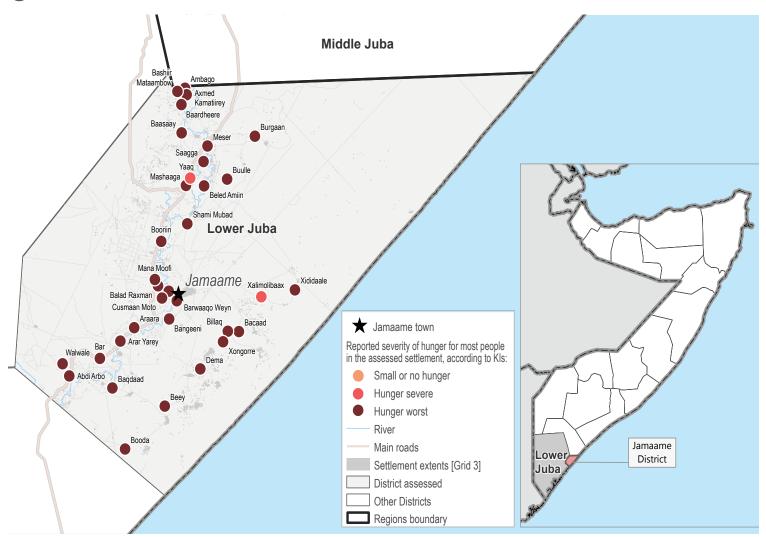
⁴ WASH cluster drought update - October 2022.

⁵ Food Security and Nuitrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) - Multi-Partner Technical Release on Updated IPC Analysis - October 2022.

⁶ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - OCHA's access working group

Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment analysis- Somalia, August 2022.

KI perception of hunger severity in Jamaame



Food and Water Access



FOOD ACCESS

100%

% of KIs who reported perceiving that food access had worsened in the assessed settlement since the last time they visited the settlement



% of KIs who reported perceiving that hunger was the worst it can be* for most people in the assessed settlement the last time they visited the settlement



WATER ACCESS

99%

% of KIs reporting that most people in the assessed settlement reduced water consumption due to insufficient access to water



% of KIs who reported river or stream as the primary water source in the assessed settlements

^{*} The answer option in the questionnaire was: "Hunger is the worst it can be all over the settlement, and causing many deaths" and relates to the last time the KI visited the settlement (August, September, or October)



FOOD ACCESS

Most reported coping strategies used by any people in the assessed settlements to find new sources of food due to a lack of food or money to buy food, by % of KIsd

Borrowing food

60%

Collecting firewood in dangerous places to sell

60%

49%

Borrowing money to buy food

47%

Livelihood coping strategies most frequently reported as exhausted in the assessed settlements, by % of KIsd

Borrowing food 39%

Collecting firewoods 36%

Send children to eat with neighbours 36%

30%

% of KIs who reported physical access to a market for most people in the assessed settlement (n=66) reporting that food was not available in the market



WATER ACCESS

Water uses most frequently reported as reduced in the assessed settlements, by % KIsd

> Cooking 40%

Drinking

36%

Producing baby formula

35%

Most commonly reported barriers to water access in the assessed settlements, by % of KIsd

Water points are too far

88%

No containers to store water

41%

Water is too expensive

29%

Persons with disabilities cannot 27% access water points

57%

% of KIs who reported that households that did not rely on surface water as the most common water source had to drink surface water to meet all water needs



Livelihoods Access

71%

% of KIs who reported that both farming and livestock are livelihood sources in the assessed settlements

100%

% of KIs reporting farming as the only livelihood source (n=20) who reported that crop yield of the Gu rain season was "much less than normal" for most people in the settlement

Most commonly reported reasons for not planting this season in the assessed settlements, by % of KIs reporting farming as the only livelihood source (n=20)

Lack of irrigation water

Lack of inputs

30%

80%

% of KIs reporting farming as the only livelihood source (n=20) who estimated that "almost all" or "all" crops had been lost for most farmers during the harvest season in the assessed settlements

Among those KIs reporting farming as the only livelihood source (n=20), the most reported reasons for crop loss in the settlement during the last harvest season wered:

Lack of rain

Drought

90%

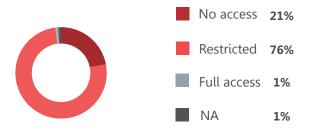
Locusts or pests

40%



Markets

Reported level of access to functioning markets for most people in the assessed settlement, by % of KIs



Most reported barrier to accessing markets, by % of KIs who reported restricted or no access to markets $(n=84)^d$



Most reported items that were unavailable at the market used by most people in the assessed settlement, by % of KIs who reported restricted or full access to markets (n = 66)^d

- 1 Clothes and materials for sewing 59%
- 2 Menstrual hygiene materials 50%
- 2 Soap 50%

- 3 Shoes **48**%
- 4 Construction materials 42%
 - 5 Fuel for cooking 39%

% of KIs who perceived that water prices had increased in the assessed settlement in the month prior to data collection due to the drought



% of KIs who perceived that food prices had increased in the assessed settlement in the month prior to data collection due to the drought



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Health Access



% of KIs who reported that there were no healthcare facilities accessible to households in the assessed settlements



% of KIs who reported that households in the assessed settlements needed or wanted access to healthcare (including medicines) but could not access it Most frequently reported barriers to healthcare in the assessed settlements, by % of KIs^d

Distance to healthcare facility

58%

Medicines are too expensive

39%

Lack of medicines at the facilities

26%

Travel to healthcare facility is too expensive

24%

//→ Displacement and Protection

% of KIs who reported drought as the primary reason why people moved out of the assessed settlements

15% reported conflict or insecurity as the primary reason why people moved out of the assessed settlements

Most frequently reported movement barriers people faced when trying to move outside the settlement, by % of KIsd

Unable to afford transportation

78%

Too weak to travel / Physical disability 47%

Unable to afford fees at checkpoints 33%



% of KIs reporting people remain in the assessed settlement who want to leave in the 3 months following data collection but cannot leave

Most frequently reported groups of people who stayed behind, by % of KIsd who reported that there are still people residing in the assessed settlement $(n=83)^{d}$

1	Mostly adult men (18-59)	38%

Endnotes

a. Findings may be biased towards settlements where a higher number of KIs were interviewed. The range of KIs was '1 to 5' per settlement and 79% of the Settlements had '2 to 3' Kls.

b. All findings are presented by % of KIs (85), Unless otherwise noted.

c. Unless otherwise specified, KIs were asked to reflect back on the situation the last time they visited the settlement between August-October 2022.

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

e. The Gu rain season, which occurs between March and June, is estimated to contribute 75% of all annual rainfall in Somalia.

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).

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