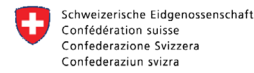


El Niño flood risk in displacement sites September 2026



Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



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SOMALI CASH
CONSORTIUM

412

sites assessed
13 districts - 7 states

399,316

reported individuals
72,485 households

83%

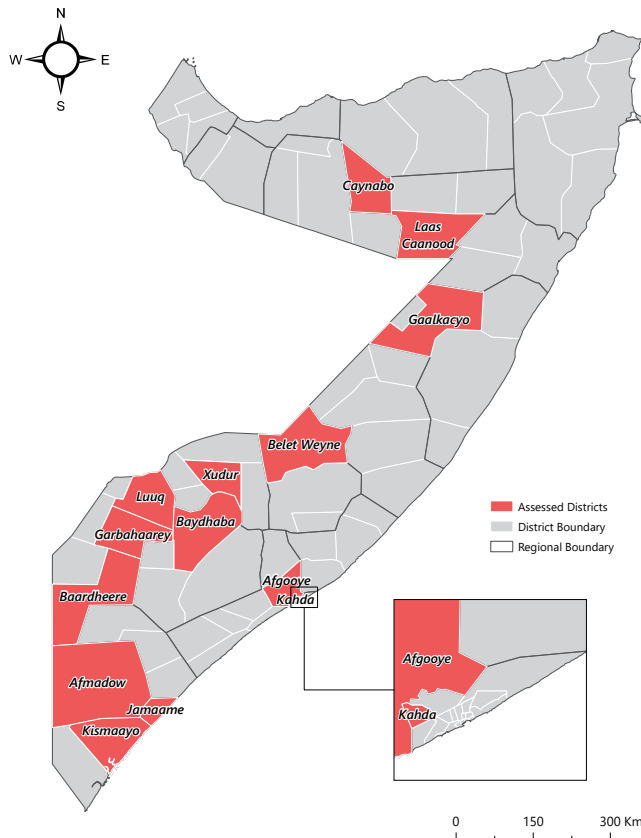
of sites flooded at
least once

341 of 412 sites - 2023-2025

15-21%

of flooded sites
evacuated per year

COVERAGE MAP



Key message

Despite widespread and recurrent flooding, evacuations remained limited: **83% of sites flooded at least once between 2023 and 2025**, while only 15% to 21% of flooded sites reported evacuations in any given year.

Shelter types reported by site*

68%

30%

Buul

Transitional
shelter

Durable
shelter (2%)

98% of the assessed sites reported living in a buul or transitional shelter. These are structures that flooding might destroy rather than merely dampen.

Context

Somalia's 2023 Deyr floods affected 2.5 million people and displaced 1.2 million, with around 118 deaths reported.¹ A post-disaster assessment across 16 districts put damage and losses at US\$193.4 million.² Similar causal factors underlying that crisis are present this year: El Niño conditions are now rated at 100% probability through early 2027, with many models projecting a very strong event peaking during the Deyr rainy season, coinciding with a positive Indian Ocean Dipole.³ ICPAC gives a 90% chance of elevated October–December rainfall over central and southern Somalia.⁴ FEWS NET expects September–November rainfall above 120% of average and flags a risk of famine in parts of the south if flooding is extreme, in a context already strained by persistent drought and erratic 2026 Gu rains.⁵ The Deyr rains begin in October, leaving a narrow window for preparedness.

Between June and July 2026, Acted and DRC assessed 412 IDP sites across 13 districts to establish how those sites fared in 2023–2025 and what capacity to evacuate exists today.

Coverage by State

State	Sites	Individuals
Jubaland	105	146,057
South West	165	99,774
Banadir	89	94,694
Hirshabelle	24	21,834
Galmudug	21	16,468
Puntland	6	11,640
North East State	2	8,849
Total	412	399,316

* T-shelter and Transitional Shelter were treated as equivalent categories, on the assumption that the difference reflects reporting terminology used by DRC and Acted, respectively. Emergency Shelter Kits were classified under the Transitional Shelter category, as they provide materials and tools to build, repair, or improve shelter solutions for specific emergency situations rather than permanent housing. This shelter type was reported only by Acted. Buul shelters were reported in 45% of sites assessed by Acted and 94% of sites assessed by DRC. Transitional Shelters were reported in 51% of Acted-assessed sites and 6% of DRC-assessed sites. Durable Shelters were reported exclusively by Acted and represented 4% of its assessed sites.

Where the priority caseload sits

Kismaayo - 62 sites

Exposure without transition space

- 74% of sites flooded in all three years
- Only 6% ever evacuated
- No transition space reported
- 42 sites in the priority group*

Where there has never been anywhere to go, recurrent flooding may be read as normal rather than as a risk.

Baydhaba - 136 sites

Universal exposure, almost no evacuation

- 100% of sites flooded at least once
- 40% flooded in all three years
- Only 2% ever evacuated
- 51 sites in the priority group

The largest district assessed, with one third of all assessed sites. Buul is the predominant shelter type in 83% of them.

Afgooye - 17 sites

Infrastructure present, evacuation rare

- 71% of sites flooded in all three years
- 59% report a community centre
- Yet only 29% ever evacuated
- 12 sites in the priority group

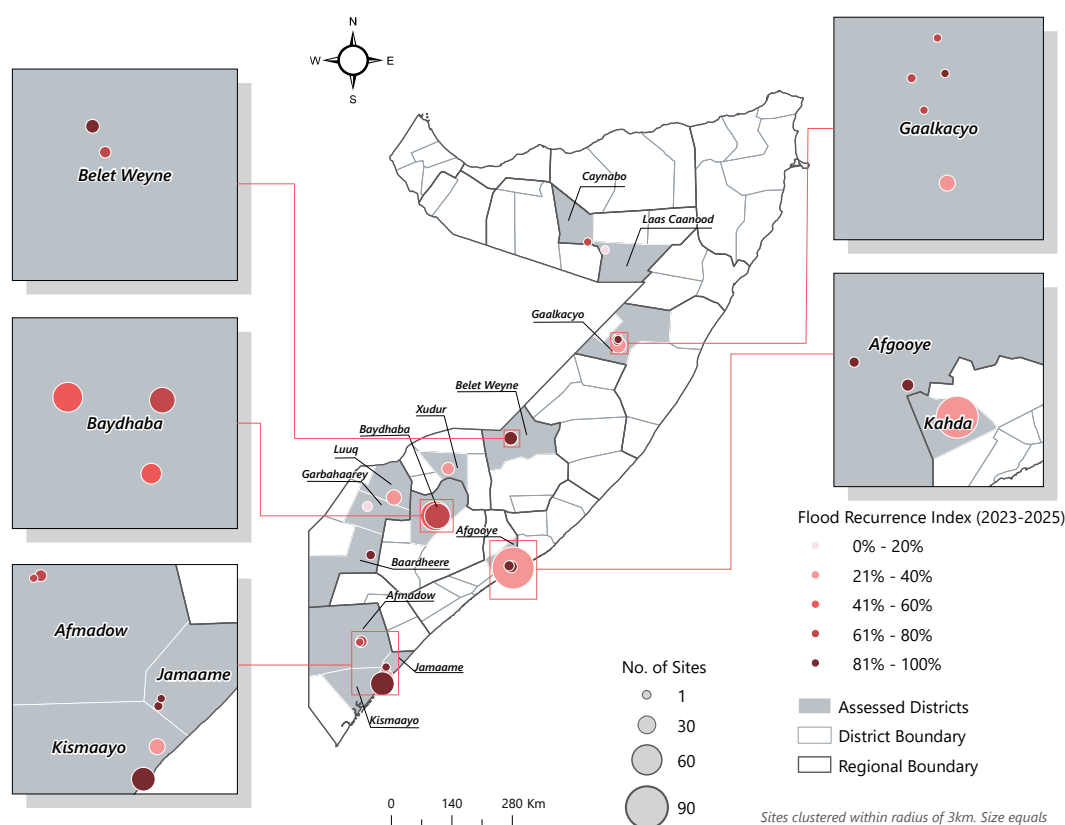
Twelve of seventeen sites, and 21,300 people: the largest priority caseload per site.

Together these three districts account for 105 of the 128 priority sites and 76,501 of the 104,722 people in that group.

Historical exposure to flooding

The three years covered include the 2023 El Niño flooding and the two seasons that followed. Tracking each site across the three years, 35% of the assessed sites (145) flooded in all three, 32% (131) flooded in 2023 only, and 17% (71) never flooded. The chronically exposed group accounts for 123,832 people, 31% of the assessed population. Between 2023 and 2025 the number of flooded sites fell from 327 to 163, but four fifths of that decline came from the 131 sites that flooded during the El Niño year and stayed dry afterwards. Their exposure is conditional on an El Niño-strength season, so they should still be treated as at risk in 2026, when these conditions are expected to reoccur.

Flood recurrence in assessed IDP sites, 2023–2025**



Number of sites reported flooded per year

2023

327 sites

The decline in reported flooded sites likely reflects the end of the 2023 El Niño cycle rather than any improvement in conditions.

2024

194 sites

2025

163 sites

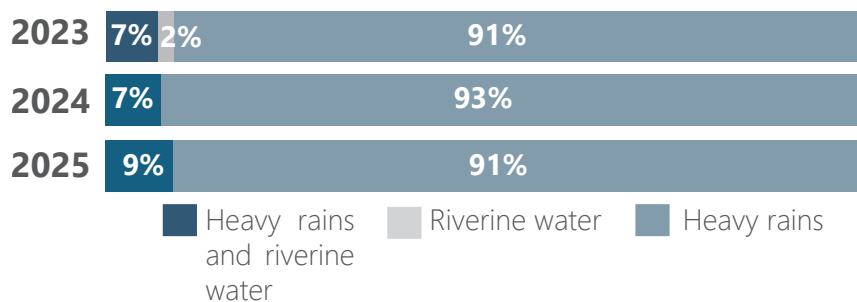
**3.33
out of 5**

is the mean perceived likelihood of flooding in 2026 among sites flooded in all three years between 2023 and 2025, against 2.25 among sites flooded once and 0.63 among sites never flooded.

*Priority group: sites flooded in at least two of the last three years that did not evacuate, 128 sites in total.

**Sites within 3 km of each other in the same district are shown as a single symbol, reducing 412 assessed sites to 25 symbols. Symbol size shows how many sites are in the group. Colour shows how often those sites flooded between 2023 and 2025: 0% means no site flooded in any of the three years, 100% means every site flooded in all three. Based on the flooding question only; sites that did not answer are excluded.

Main reported reasons for flooding, by year*



Rainfall, rather than river levels, drove almost all reported flooding. The composition remains largely unchanged across the three years, even though the number of flooded sites is halved. What changes between an El Niño year and a normal year is the number of sites that flood, not the reasons they flood.

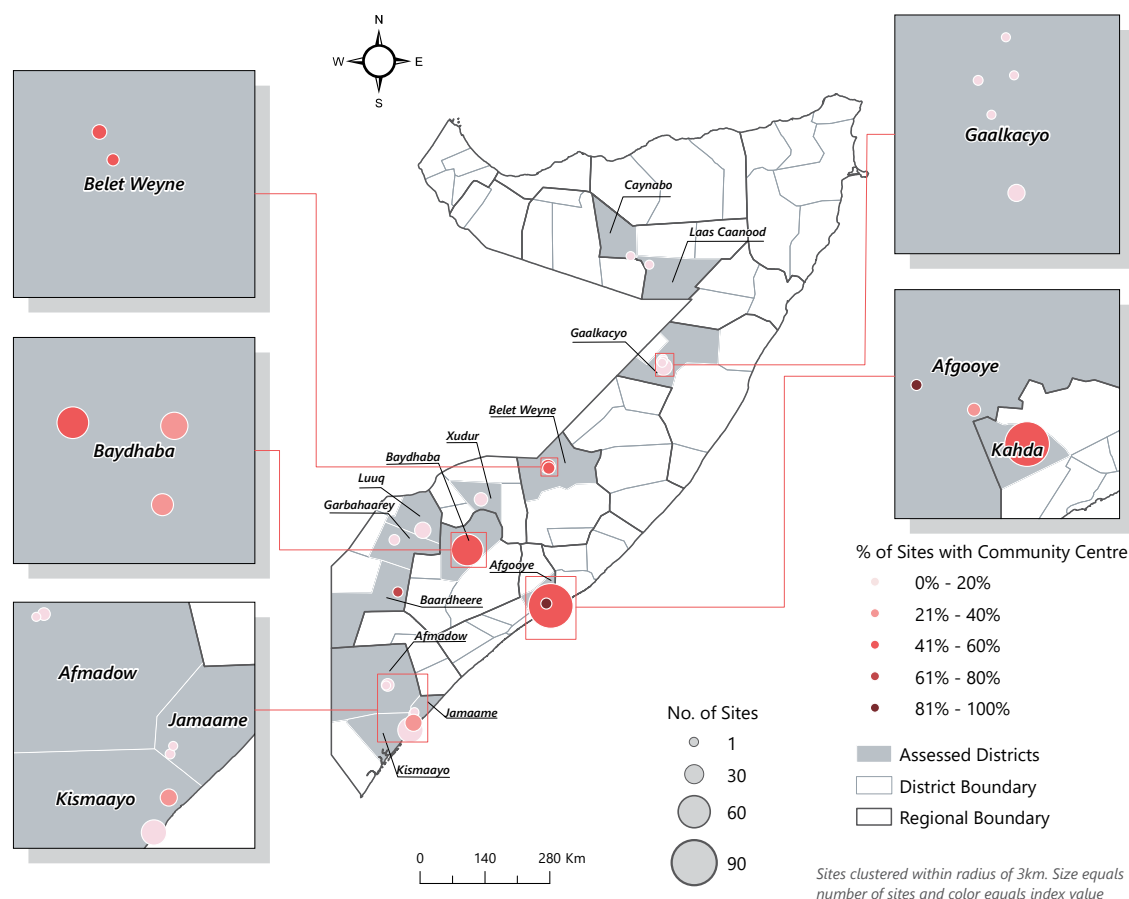
Profile by state

State	Sites	Individuals	Flooded	Chronic	Likel.
Jubaland	105	146,057	81%	51%	2.3
South West	165	99,774	100%	40%	2.7
Banadir	89	94,694	53%	13%	1.5
Hirshabelle	24	21,834	96%	46%	4.2
Galmudug	21	16,468	67%	0%	2.4
Puntland	6	11,640	100%	33%	3.6
North East State	2	8,849	50%	0%	2.0

Chronic = percentage of sites reported flooded in the three consecutive years. Likel.= mean perceived likelihood of flooding in 2026 (0-5 scale).

Evacuation capacity

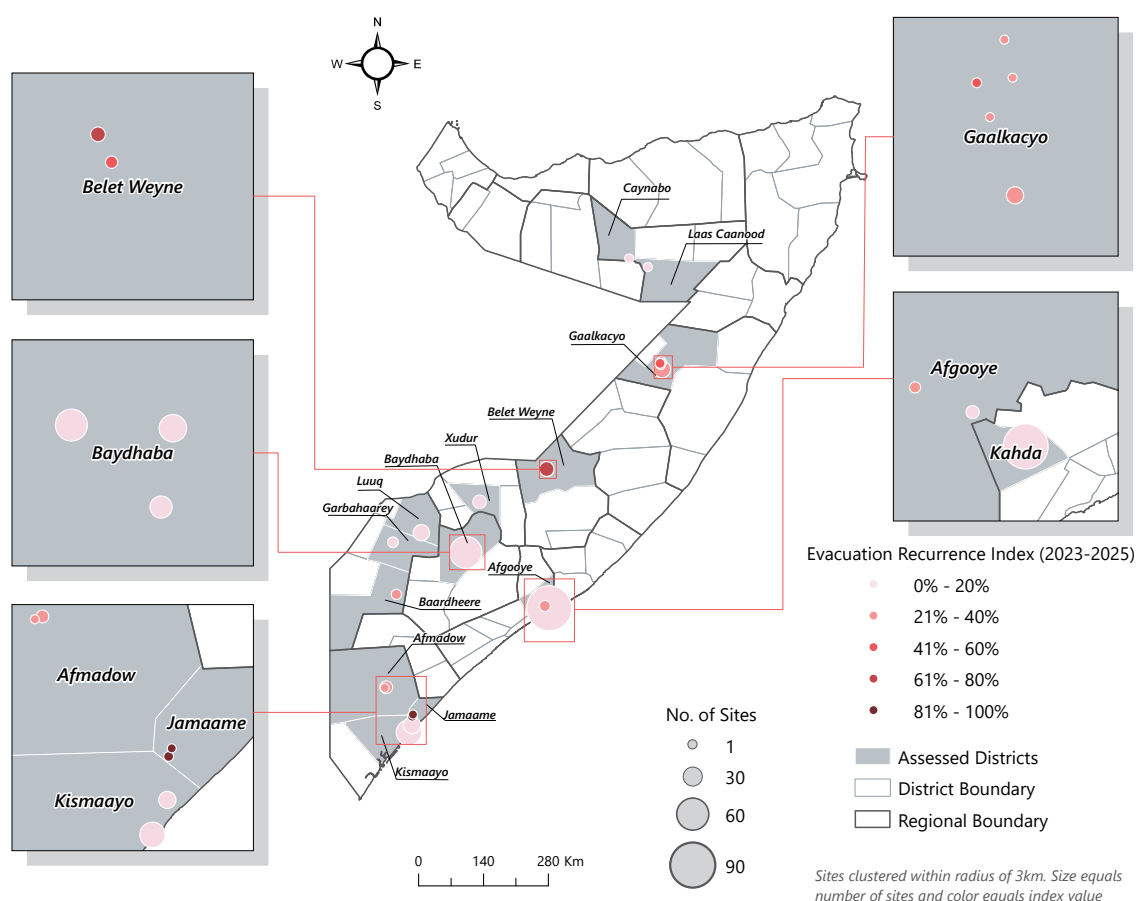
Reported presence of community centres in assessed IDP sites



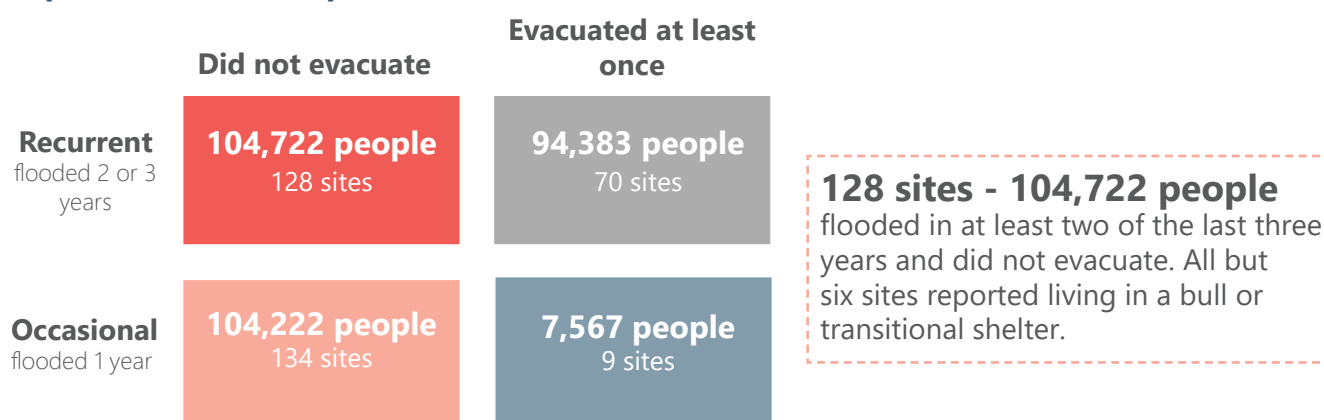
* Percentages are calculated only on sites whose response specified a cause. Four sites answered "Yes" without stating a cause were excluded, giving denominators of 323 sites in 2023, 190 in 2024 and 159 in 2025. Sites reporting no flooding were not included.

Community centres do not appear to play a meaningful role as evacuation destinations. Among flooded sites that answered the question, the proportion reporting evacuation at some point was the same regardless of whether a community centre was present (29% in both cases). Community centre availability was also unrelated to flood history, with presence roughly the same among sites flooded in all three years and those never flooded. Of the 112 sites reporting a community centre, only eight said they would evacuate there, while 82 reported having no designated transition space at all. Instead, evacuation patterns seem to be driven more by the severity of flooding than by the infrastructure available. Three of the four districts with the highest evacuation rates, Jamaame, Afmadow, and Gaalkacyo, reported no community centres whatsoever. By contrast, Kahda, one of the districts with the greatest availability of community centres, reported a lower evacuation rate than any of those three, at 26%.

Evacuation recurrence in assessed IDP sites, 2023-2025*



Reported flood vs. reported evacuation**



*Sites within 3 km of each other in the same district are shown as a single symbol, reducing 412 assessed sites to 25 symbols. Symbol size shows how many sites are in the group. Colour shows how often those sites evacuated between 2023 and 2025: 0% means no site evacuated in any of the three years, 100% means every site evacuated in all three. Based on the evacuation question only; blank responses are counted as no evacuation. Shows reported evacuation, not whether evacuation was needed.

** Covers the 341 sites that flooded at least once between 2023 and 2025; sites with no recorded flooding are excluded, since for them not evacuating carries no meaning. Recurrent = flooded in two or three of the three years; occasional = flooded in one. Evacuated = evacuation reported in any of the three years; where a single year was left blank the remaining years were used, and no site left all three unanswered. The horizontal axis records whether evacuation happened, not whether it was possible: sites that did not evacuate may have had nowhere to go, may have judged the flooding manageable, or may have stayed to protect assets, and the data does not distinguish between these.

Methodology

As part of El Niño 2026 preparedness planning, Acted and DRC assessed 412 IDP sites, 214 and 198 respectively, between June and July 2026, across 13 districts and seven federal member states, recording flooding and evacuation for 2023–2025, shelter type, presence of a community centre and perceived likelihood of flooding in 2026. Sites were selected on the basis of partner operational presence, not through probability sampling, so figures describe the assessed sites and are not generalisable to Somalia's displaced population. Only Kahda and Baydhaba were covered by both partners; elsewhere partner and geography cannot be separated. The unit of analysis is the site: population figures are estimates provided by site focal points, not census data, and all responses are self-reported and retrospective. The two partners did not use identical response options, so shelter type, presence of a community centre and perceived likelihood are only partially comparable between them. The transition space question diverges further still: 43% of Acted-assessed sites report an available space against none of the 197 DRC-assessed sites, and findings based on it are reported only with this caveat. Harmonisation applied: "South west"/"South West" merged, "Mogadishu" folded into Banadir, "GLK" standardised as Gaalkacyo, and "Not" read as "No".

Limitations

Missing responses. Presence of a community centre is unanswered for 72 sites, all DRC-assessed; transition space for 34 sites; evacuation for 22 site-years. "Flooding experienced in the past" is unanswered for 198 of 412 sites and is not used in this analysis.

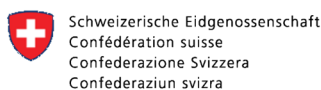
Definition of flooding. The questionnaire sets no severity threshold, so a positive answer may describe standing water in part of the site or the destruction of shelters. Attribution to river levels as a sole cause appears only in 2023 and not in the two following years.

Reporting level. Within-district variation in flooding responses is limited in several districts, all sites in Xudur, Afmadow, Baardheere and Jamaame report an identical three-year pattern, which suggests the question was in some cases answered above site level. Results are more reliable at district or cluster level than at site level.

References

1. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2023, December 24). [Somalia: 2023 Deyr season floods situation report No. 5](#)
2. Somalia Disaster Management Agency, United Nations, World Bank, & European Union. (2024). [Somalia 2023 Deyr floods: Rapid post-disaster needs assessment report](#).
3. Joining Forces Alliance. (2026, August 17). [El Niño floods threaten millions of children in Somalia, child rights agencies warn.](#)
4. IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre. (2026, August 18). [The Greater Horn of Africa is expected to experience a wetter-than-normal October–December \(OND\) 2026 season as El Niño strengthens.](#)
5. Famine Early Warning Systems Network. (2026, June). [Multiple areas across the south face a risk of Famine \(IPC Phase 5\) if flooding is extreme: Somalia food security outlook, June 2026.](#)

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