

# 2021 JMCNA BULLETIN

## KEY FINDINGS

May 2022  
Somaliland

### JOINT MULTI-CLUSTER NEEDS ASSESSMENT (JMCNA) OVERVIEW

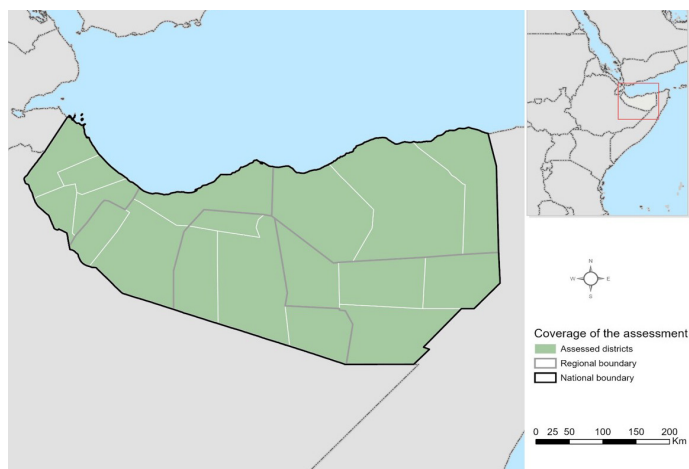
**Context.** Somaliland is experiencing a prolonged, complex and multi-faceted humanitarian situation characterised by climate-related shocks, communicable disease outbreaks and fragile social protection mechanisms.<sup>1</sup> Since the beginning of 2020, two additional shocks have contributed to a deterioration of humanitarian conditions across the country: vast swarms of desert locusts<sup>2</sup> and the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3</sup> These compounding shocks have exacerbated humanitarian needs among a population already living under the strain of widespread poverty, vulnerability, and decades of armed conflict and insecurity.

There is thus a pressing need for an integrated and harmonised humanitarian response plan. To this end, REACH is supporting the fifth Joint Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (JMCNA) in Somaliland. The assessment seeks to address information gaps by ensuring that the severity of needs relevant to each sector are assessed in a way that enables comparison across the country, across population groups, and geographical areas. Moreover, the JMCNA directly addresses the information gaps in cross-cutting needs at the household (HH) level and aims to facilitate the understanding of the co-occurrence of different sectoral needs. The ultimate goal of the assessment is to inform partners at the strategic level and as such is timed to be completed in line with the Humanitarian Program Cycle 2021.

**Methodology.** Primary data was collected by means of a HH-level survey designed with the participation of the humanitarian partners in Somaliland. Data collection took place from May 30<sup>th</sup> to July 18<sup>th</sup> using an indicative, non-probability quota sampling method because of COVID-19 restrictions. The JMCNA survey was administered to respondents over the phone. A total of around 3,121 HHs surveys were retained through the data checking and cleaning process (1,911 in non-IDP settlements, and 1,210 in IDP settlements). As a result of the above-described sampling approach, findings should not be considered generalisable at the district level.

**Note.** The full methodology overview is available [here](#).

### ASSESSMENT SCOPE AND GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



In coordination with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and humanitarian partners, and in line with previous JMCNA research cycles, the population groups assessed include HHs living in internally displaced person (IDP)<sup>4</sup> settlements and HHs living in non-IDP settlements, in both rural and urban areas. The population of interest assessed during data collection was limited to the subset of HHs possessing a mobile phone, residing in areas with cellular network coverage and contact numbers being included on the available phone lists.

This bulletin contains the key quantitative inter-sectoral findings. Sectoral and regional findings will be presented in factsheets that will be published around mid-2022.

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), [Humanitarian Needs Overview](#), October 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, [IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute malnutrition analysis](#), March 2021.

<sup>3</sup> At the national level, loss of employment is mainly driven by COVID-19 (54% of HHs), REACH JMCNA 2021.

<sup>4</sup> An Internally Displaced Person (IDP) settlement is defined as a group of shelters, located in urban and rural areas, that can be either dispersed or grouped, where IDPs reside.



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## MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS INDEX (MSNI): CRISIS-LEVEL SEVERITY

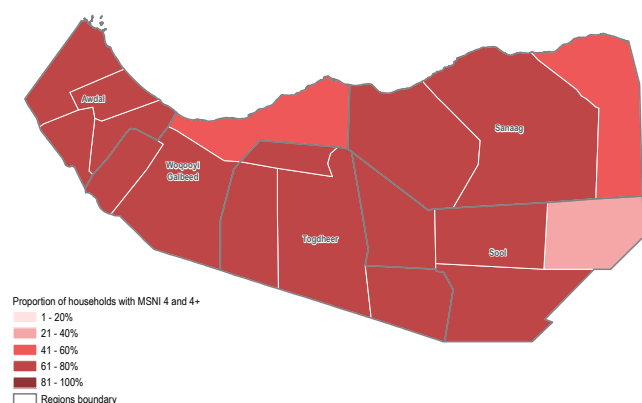
Percentage of households per severity phase:

In need	4+ (Extreme+)	1%
	4 (Extreme)	64%
	3 (Severe)	33%
	2 (Stress)	2%
	1 (None/minimal)	0%

The MSNI is a composite indicator, designed to measure the overall severity of humanitarian needs of a household. It is based on the highest sectoral severity identified in each household and expressed through a scale of 1 to 4+.<sup>5</sup> Sectoral severity is determined through the calculation of sector-specific composite indicators. The full methodology behind the calculation of the MSNI and individual sectoral composites, in accordance with the REACH Analytical Framework Guidance, can be found in the [methodology overview](#).

## HOUSEHOLDS IN NEED BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Percentage of households with an MSNI severity score of 4 or higher, per geographical area:



All districts across Somaliland were found to present a significant level of inter-sectoral needs, with almost all interviewed HHs found to have an MSNI score 3 or higher.

The highest proportions of HHs with extreme multi-sectoral needs (i.e. MSNI score of 4 or 4+) were observed in Baki, Boroma, Buuhoodle, Caynabo, Ceel Afweyne, and Sheikh. In these districts, more than 70% of interviewed HHs were attributed an MSNI score of 4 or 4+. In particular, at the national level, multi-sectoral needs were found to be mainly driven by living standard gaps (LSGs)<sup>6</sup> in 1) protection, 2) shelter and non food items (SNFI), and 3) water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH). Lower proportions of HHs with extreme needs (i.e. MSNI score 4 and 4+) were found in Taleex and Laasqoray districts, where less than 50% of interviewed HHs were attributed an MSNI score of 4 or 4+. Although fewer HHs presenting extreme needs were found in Taleex and

Laasqoray, in Somaliland, a high level of regional displacement was observed particularly in Sool and Sanaag regions, which could worsen already precarious living conditions.<sup>7</sup> The main reported reasons for displacement in Somaliland were drought, lack of livelihoods opportunities, and lack of access to water, which was also reflected by findings reported on the [UN Refugee Agency \(UNHCR\) Protection and Return Monitoring Network \(PRMN\) Dashboard](#).

## MSNI SEVERITY PHASE BY POPULATION GROUP

Percentage of households per group and severity phase:

	4+	4	3	2	1
HHs living in IDP settlement	1%	76%	23%	0%	0%
HHs living in non-IDP settlement	1%	61%	36%	2%	0%
Female-headed HHs <sup>8</sup>	1%	61%	37%	2%	0%
Male-headed HHs	2%	69%	26%	3%	0%

Overall, while the majority of HHs in each of the assessed population groups were found to have extreme multi-sectoral needs, needs were most commonly found among HHs living in IDP settlements. The World Bank 2019 poverty assessment<sup>9</sup> has shown that populations residing in IDP settlements are significantly more likely to be facing multi-dimensional deprivations because of lack to access to basic services.

<sup>5</sup> While the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF) traditionally assigns scores from 1 to 5, with the latter representing catastrophic needs (heightened levels of mortality, grave human rights violations, and morbidity), the MSNI is expressed on a scale from 1 to 4+. Reflecting the character of the JMCNA, REACH was not able to classify households as 5, as such classifications are more appropriate at the area level than at the HH-level, and can only be established through the triangulation of several external sources.

<sup>6</sup> Living Standard Gaps (LSGs) are composite indicators designed to measure the sector-specific severity and magnitude of needs for each humanitarian sector included in the

JMCNA. LSGs are the analytical building blocks for producing the overall MSNI. A LSG signifies an unmet need in a given sector, it is produced by aggregating unmet needs indicators for this sector.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Protection and Return monitoring network, [Internal displacements dashboard](#).

<sup>8</sup> The gender disaggregation of the JMCNA data has been performed using the proxy indicator related to the person deciding on HH expenditure.

<sup>9</sup> World Bank, [Poverty and vulnerability assessment](#), 2019

## UNPACKING THE MSNI: AREAS AND GROUPS WITH THE HIGHEST NEEDS

- The highest proportion of assessed HHs in extreme need (i.e. MSNI score of 4 or 4+) was found in **Ceel Afweyne (78%), Buuhoodle (74%), Caynabo (72%), Sheikh (72%), Baki (71%) and Boroma (71%)**. As mentioned previously, the extreme multi-sectoral needs in these regions were found to be driven mainly by LSGs in protection, SNFI and WASH.
- In particular, **Boroma, Caynabo and Sheikh reportedly experienced severe drought conditions** according to the SWALIM Drought Combined Index (CDI) between January 2021 and 2022,<sup>10</sup> characterized by wider scale of loss of crops and pastures, imposed water rationing and livestock migration. Such a climatic context is likely to impact HHs' shelter and WASH needs, mainly due to increased displacement and lack of access to sufficient water.<sup>11</sup>
- According to the WASH sector dashboard, while eastern districts of Somaliland appeared to be "drought hotspots", especially in **Sool and Sanaag regions**, minimal WASH assistance reached the population as of December 2021, which could further drive WASH needs in these regions.<sup>12</sup>
- HHs living in IDP settlements were more commonly found to have extreme multi-sectoral needs than HHs in non-IDP settlements.** A particularly high proportion of HHs living in IDP settlements with an MSNI score 4 or 4+ was found in Buuhoodle, Caynabo, Lughaye, and Odweyne districts (more than 30 percentage point difference with HHs in non-IDP settlements). For Somaliland districts, extreme needs for HHs living in IDP settlements were found to be mainly driven by LSGs in 1) SNFI; 2) protection; and 3) food security and WASH.

## UNDERSTANDING KEY DRIVERS

- Overall, protection was found to be the main sector driving extreme multi-sectoral needs (MSNI of 4 or higher), with 86% of all assessed HHs found to have protection LSGs.** Protection needs were primarily driven by barriers to access humanitarian aid, as 39% of HHs reported one or more barriers to access humanitarian assistance, mainly related to the access to aid distribution points. In addition, for regions affected by severe drought conditions, it was found that higher financial constraints resulting from the loss of income opportunities, could lead to negative coping mechanism such as early marriage or school drop out to engage in labour activities, and lower quality of shelter and WASH facilities and long distances to water collection points could greater expose girls and women to harassment and risk of sexual violence in affected areas.<sup>13</sup>
- In addition to protection, SNFI (79% of HHs with extreme needs) and WASH (76%) were also found to be common drivers of extreme multi-sectoral needs.** SNFI needs were found to be mainly driven by the high proportion of HHs living with less than 4 out of 7 key NFI items (plastic sheet, blanket, sleeping mat, kitchen set, mosquito net, solar lamp, jerry cans). WASH needs were found to be mainly driven by the high proportion of HHs reportedly using sanitation facilities with incomplete standard features (walls, doors, locks, functioning light, gender separation, access for persons with disabilities).
- Findings suggest that the most common combination of co-occurring needs was **a combination of LSGs in Education, WASH, SNFI and Food security**, particularly among **HHs in IDP settlements**; 19% of them presented LSGs across these sectors (see table below).
- In addition to LSGs, HHs were found to have pre-existing vulnerabilities (i.e underlying conditions that influence the degree of the shock and influence exposure, vulnerability or capacity, which would subsequently exacerbate the impact of a crisis on those affected by the vulnerabilities). In particular, **economic vulnerabilities were commonly found among assessed HHs, with 46% of HHs reporting having faced challenges obtaining enough money to meet their needs over the 30 days before the assessment.** This could be explained by the fact that many assessed HHs reportedly relied on unregular sources of income, such as casual labour (46%). This fragile economic situation could therefore prevent HH from being able to purchase basic NFIs or improve sanitation facilities, particularly when they have to prioritise food, in turn driving WASH and SNFI needs.
- Finally, a majority of HHs (62%) reported not having any formal documentation to prove their occupancy arrangement**, which leaves them at risk of eviction. In fact, 9% of interviewed HHs in Somaliland reported feeling at risk of eviction by the time of data collection or within the following 6 months. By the end of June 2021, 5,386 persons had been evicted across Somaliland.<sup>14</sup> Almost all cases reported were forced evictions.

### Most common needs profiles, by % of HHs in need (i.e. with an MSNI severity score of 3+):

Population group	Education	Food Security	Health	Nutrition	Protection	SNFI	WASH
<b>Overall (16%)<sup>15</sup></b>							
<b>HHs in IDP settlements (19%)</b>							
<b>HHs in non-IDP settlements (18%)</b>							
<b>Male-headed HHs (14%)</b>							
<b>Female-headed HHs (17%)</b>							

<sup>10</sup> Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM), [Combined Drought Index](#), February 2022.

<sup>11</sup> OCHA, [Drought Response, Situation Report No. 7](#), May 2022.

<sup>12</sup> WASH Sector, [Drought Response](#), December 2021.

<sup>13</sup> OCHA, [Drought Response, Situation Report No. 7](#), May 2022.

<sup>14</sup> Norwegian Refugee Council and the Protection Sector, [Eviction Information Portal](#).

<sup>15</sup> The figures noted in brackets in this table reflect the percentage of HHs with the most prevalent needs profile (overall and then disaggregated by population group).


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## ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP)

### Inclusion in decision making

- **At the national level, 50% of HHs reported not feeling able to influence site-level decisions.** Male respondents slightly more commonly reported their ability to influence decisions (58%) than female respondents (41%). Moreover, a third of HHs (34%) reported believing that the governance structure established in their community did not represent their interests, with no notable difference between female and male respondents.<sup>16</sup>
- **In addition, in a December 2020 perceptions assessment conducted by Ground Truth Solutions, only 37% percent of survey respondents reported feeling that aid providers took their opinions in account.**<sup>17</sup> Moreover, according to the data, IDPs were less convinced that aid providers take their opinions into account: only 31% of IDP respondents responded positively, compared to 42% of community residents.

### Delivery of assistance

- At the national level, only 11% of HHs living in IDP settlements and 43% of HHs living in non-IDP settlements reported not having faced barriers in accessing humanitarian aid in the 30 days before data collection. Interestingly, a previous finding suggested that a higher proportion of HHs living in IDP settlements were found to have extreme multi-sectoral needs, compared to HHs living out of IDP settlements. Overall, when reported, the main barriers in accessing humanitarian aid were found to be mainly related to lack of information (38%).
- Findings suggest that SNFI is one of the most reported priority need for assistance reported by assessed HHs, which overlaps with previous findings, with SNFI being one of the main driver for extreme multi-sectoral needs.

### Most commonly reported priority needs for assessed HHs living in IDP settlements:<sup>18</sup>

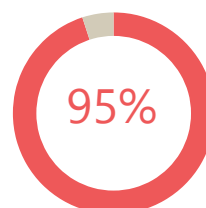
Shelter / housing	11%	■
Food or cash for food	11%	■
Healthcare	11%	■

### Most commonly reported priority needs for assessed HHs living in non-IDP settlements:<sup>18</sup>

Healthcare	46%	■
Shelter / housing	41%	■
Food or cash for food	40%	■

**92% of HHs in need** (i.e. HHs with an MSNI severity score of 3 or higher) reported that they **did not receive humanitarian assistance in the 30 days preceding the assessment.**

### Satisfaction with aid received:



Of the 8% of HHs who reported receiving aid in the 30 days preceding the assessment, 95% reported being satisfied or very satisfied. The top three reasons reported by HHs who were unsatisfied with the aid received:

- 1) Insufficient quantity (74%)
- 2) Insufficient quality (12%)
- 3) Both quality and quantity were not enough (5%)

### Most commonly reported types of assistance preferred for HHs living in IDP settlements:<sup>18</sup>

Food	10%	■
Provision of services	8%	■
Cash via mobile money	7%	■
Physical cash	7%	■

### Most commonly reported types of assistance preferred for HHs living in non-IDP settlements:<sup>18</sup>

Food	43%	■
Cash via mobile money	32%	■
Physical cash	30%	■
Provision of services	29%	■

<sup>16</sup> No statistical significance was conducted to assess whether the difference in the results between population groups is statistically significant.

<sup>17</sup> Ground Truth Solutions, [Perception survey of aid recipients](#), December 2020.

<sup>18</sup> The respondents could choose more than one option, therefore the sum of responses may exceed 100%.



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## ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP)

### Communication and dissemination

- At the national level, **information on accessing food (37%), followed by information on access to shelter (26%), how to register for aid (24%) and how to get healthcare assistance (24%) were the most common information needs reported by HHs**, both in IDP and non-IDP settlements. Interestingly, a previous finding highlighted that one of the main barriers to accessing humanitarian assistance was found to be mainly related to the lack of information.
- Humanitarian actors could effectively disseminate information through the radio, as HHs in both IDP and non-IDP settlements reported preferring to receive information from the radio (36%),** followed by community leaders (35%), and international aid agencies (20%). When asked about their preferred means of communication, the majority cited phone calls.

Preferred channels for providing feedback to aid providers: <sup>19</sup>

- 46%** Face to face (at home) with aid worker
- 41%** Phone call
- 29%** Face to face (in office/other venue) with aid worker



Preferred channels for receiving information from aid providers: <sup>19</sup>

- 71%** Phone call
- 30%** Face to face
- 18%** SMS

<sup>19</sup> The respondents could choose more than one option, therefore the sum of responses may exceed 100%.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Information Management Working Group

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All Health humanitarian partners  
All Education humanitarian partners  
All WASH humanitarian partners  
All SNFI humanitarian partners  
All Protection humanitarian partners  
All Health humanitarian partners  
All Food Security and Livelihoods humanitarian partners  
All Nutrition humanitarian partners  
All Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) humanitarian partners

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**About REACH:** 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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