

ZOOM-IN: Humanitarian Situation Monitoring (HSM) in Rab dhuure District, Somalia

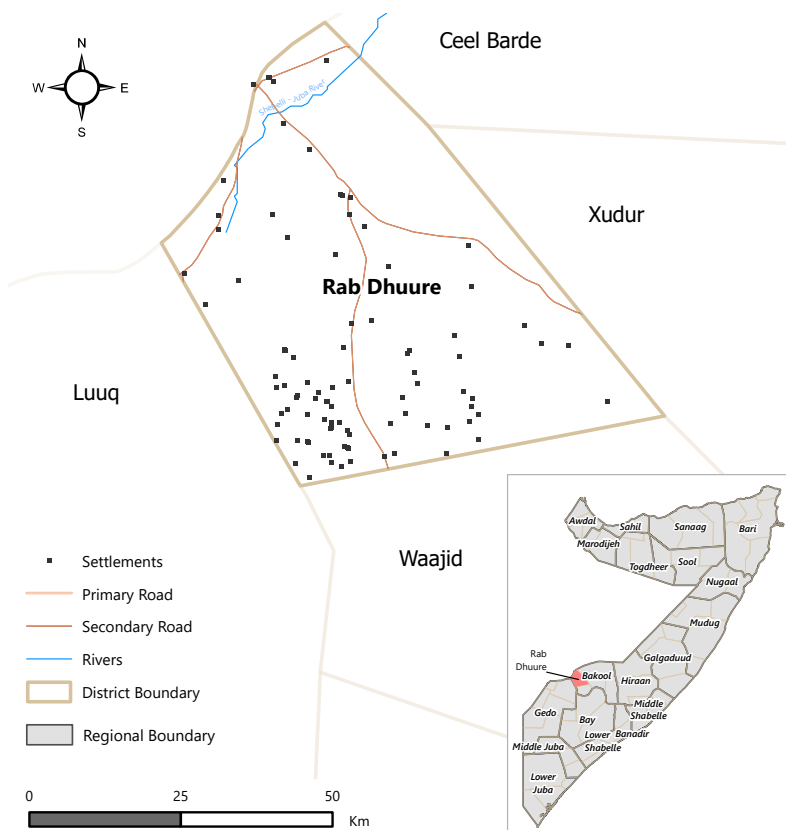
July, 2024

Rab Dhuure District, Somalia

KEY MESSAGES

- The ongoing insecurity, coupled with climate crises (drought and floods), may be limiting access in Rab Dhuure district and exacerbating humanitarian needs particularly with regards to Food Security, Livelihoods, Healthcare and WASH needs.
- Asset depletion, including the loss of crops and livestock, coupled with rising food prices, is likely contributing to increased food insecurity.
- Access to clean water, improved sanitation facilities and healthcare services remained consistently limited in the hard-to-reach settlements of Rab Dhuure district. The use of surface water has been increasing, reflecting a growing trend over time. This could increase the risk of cholera outbreaks, leaving these vulnerable populations at heightened risk of disease and further hardship.

Rab Dhuure District Map



CONTEXT & RATIONALE

Access to essential services and aid in Rab Dhuure districts are severely limited due to security concerns and the impact of the recent Gu floods. Hard-to-reach settlements in Rab Dhuure district face ongoing hardship as repeated failed rainy seasons and recurrent flash floods disrupt livelihoods. The deteriorating humanitarian situation has caused widespread displacement, yet efforts to provide relief are hindered by ongoing security threats. As a result, residents have struggled to access health care, sanitation, and other vital services, leaving communities in urgent need with few options for assistance.

Limited access to safe drinking water and inadequate sanitation facilities in Rab Dhuure's hard-to-reach settlements heighten the risk of waterborne diseases like Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) and cholera. With sanitation facilities destroyed by recent floods and still not rehabilitated, the lack of proper infrastructure elevates the risk of disease outbreaks, further exacerbating the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the district.

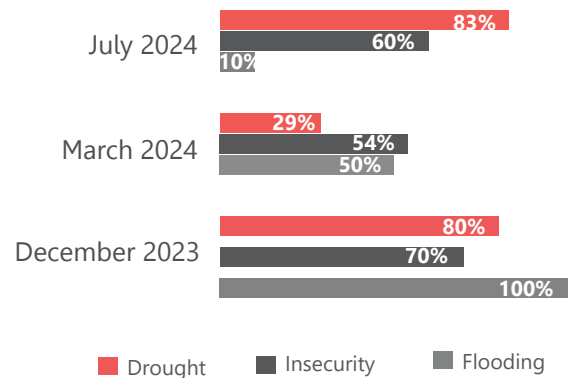
ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

This factsheet presents the findings from Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) conducted during the July 2024, March 2024 and December 2023 rounds of the multi-district HSM assessment, focusing on the settlements in the Rab dhuure district. The assessment encompassed 15% of the settlements in Rab Dhuure, involving a total of 166 KIIs. It is important to note that the findings are indicative and cannot be generalized to the entire population.

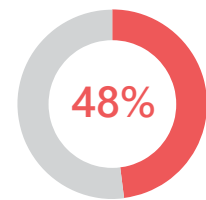
✱ SHOCKS AND ACCESS

Climate crises and ongoing insecurity continue to limit access in Rab Dhuure district and could increase the vulnerabilities of populations living in hard-to-reach settlements. Over the past three rounds of HSM data collection (December 2023, March 2024, and July 2024), climate crises and insecurity were consistently reported in more than half of the assessed settlements. The district has faced back-to-back seasonal flooding during the Deyr and Gu rains, which, combined with insecurity, has significantly hindered access to these settlements¹. Road access to nearly half of the assessed settlements in Rab Dhuure district has reportedly been compromised across the past three rounds of HSM data collection. In July 2024, almost half of the assessed settlements (48%) reported roads that were either unsafe or inaccessible by vehicle, (compared to 45% in March 2024 and 70% in December 2023). This aligns with reports from the Somalia Logistics Cluster, indicating that roads in and around Rab Dhuure are not passable². The district also lacks an airport, and the nearest one is in Hudur, approximately 90 kilometers away, though it remains restricted, further complicating access to the district³. The combination of climate crises and limited access may be exacerbating humanitarian needs, particularly with regards to Food Security, Healthcare and WASH needs.

Three most commonly reported shocks by KIs in the assessed settlements in the year prior to data collection:*



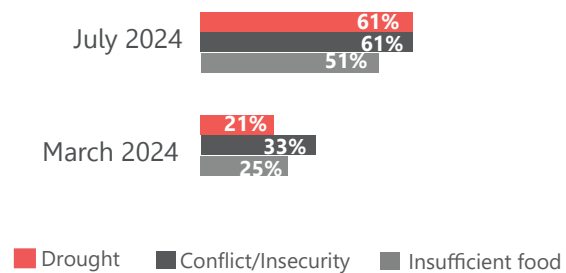
% of assessed settlements where KIs reported that the roads were either not safe or not accessible by vehicle at the time of data collection in July 2024, compared to 70% in December 2023 and 45% in March 2024.



➔ DISPLACEMENT

Climate crises, coupled with conflict/insecurity and lack of sufficient food, may be driving displacement in Rab Dhuure district. In July 2024, KIs in almost all assessed settlements (93%) reported that people had moved out within the 30 days prior to data collection, a trend that has remained high compared to March 2024 (96%) and December 2023 (90%), with the majority relocating to other districts. These findings align with the protection and return monitoring network (PRMN) report, which highlights population displacements in hard-to-reach settlements⁴. Furthermore, KIs in the majority of the assessed settlements (86% in July 2024, 92% in March 2024 and 60% in December 2023) reported there were people who wanted to leave but were unable to do so due to physical disabilities, age and road closures. The most commonly reported groups who wanted to move out but were unable to do so in July 2024 were elderly men (45%), elderly women (46%) and people with disabilities (52%), which could suggest that the most vulnerable in hard-to-reach districts may be the least able to physically access support available in accessible areas.

Three most commonly reported reasons why people moved out of their settlements within the 30 days prior to data collection, by % of assessed settlements:**



% of assessed settlements where some people had reportedly moved away in the 30 days prior to data collection:*



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

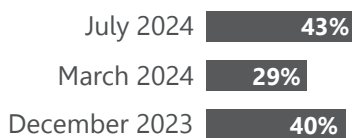
** 100% of assessed settlements reported flooding as a reason for displacement in the December 2023 round.

➔ FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD

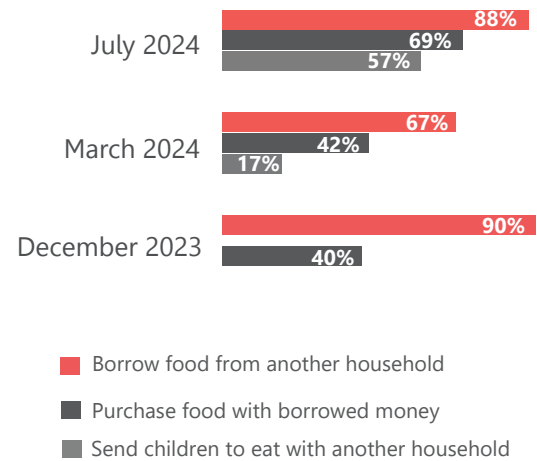
Food insecurity and a high reliance on negative coping strategies due to a lack of food or money to buy food could persist in Rab Dhuure. During the last three data collection rounds, key informants (KIs) in nearly half of the assessed settlements reported that at least one in four households did not have enough food to eat. The most reported coping strategies include borrowing food, purchasing food with borrowed money and sending children to eat with other households. These findings align with the IPC phase classification, which categorizes Rab Dhuure district as IPC Phase 2 (Stressed)⁵.

The levels of food insecurity are consistent with reported crop losses and a decline in livestock ownership. In the last three data collection rounds, nearly half of the assessed settlements experienced crop loss and a reduction in livestock, which could further decrease income generation in the short-medium term, particularly noting that farming and livestock are the primary sources of income in more than half of the assessed settlements. This also aligns with the July post-Gu crop assessment by FSNAU and partners, which indicates significantly below-average national crop production due to poor rainfall distribution, early cessation of rains, floods, conflict, and pest infestations⁶.

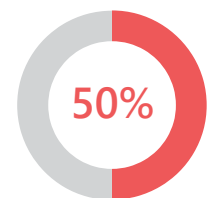
% of assessed settlements reporting at least one in four households did not have enough food to eat:*



Most reported coping strategies due to a lack of food or money to buy food in the 30 days prior to data collection, by % of assessed settlements:*



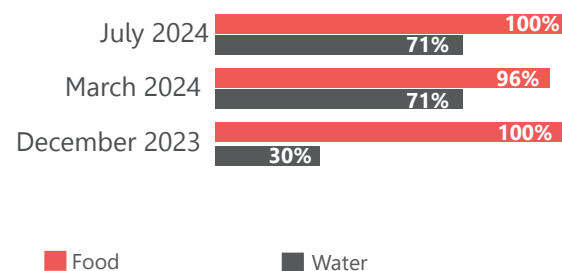
% of assessed settlements where crop loss was reported for most households (26%-100%) during the most recent harvest season, compared to 40% in December 2023 and 50% in March 2024.



🏠 ACCESS TO MARKETS

Access to markets was reportedly limited in hard-to-reach settlements of Rab Dhuure district. KIs in nearly half of the assessed settlements reported that access to the market was limited to some days at the time of data collection across the last three rounds (38% in December 2023, 38% in March 2024 and 50% in July 2024). This was reflected in the reported prices of food and water within the three months of data collection, which increased due to the district's remoteness and ongoing security challenges in Rab Dhuure. This aligns with OCHA report which indicates an increase of food prices in some of the hard-to-reach districts⁷. The most commonly reported barriers to market access remained caregiving responsibilities for children and the elderly, restrictions imposed by family members and limitations set by local or traditional authorities.

% of assessed settlements where KIs reported increased food and water prices in the three months prior to data collection:*



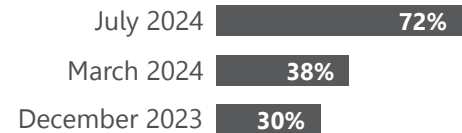
* KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER, SANITATION FACILITIES AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES

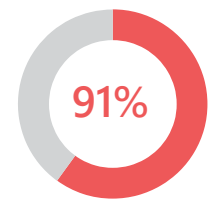
Access to clean water, improved sanitation facilities and healthcare services remained consistently limited in hard-to-reach settlements. Over the last three data collection rounds, KIs in the majority of the assessed settlements reported that some households were relying on surface water for drinking. Additionally, a notable portion of assessed settlements reportedly relied on unimproved sanitation facilities, increasing the risk of cholera outbreaks⁸.

In parallel, a considerable portion of the assessed settlements also faced challenges in accessing healthcare services. This was evident from the reported distances to healthcare facilities, where KIs in many settlements consistently noted that the nearest facility was more than half an hour away using the most common mode of transport at the time of data collection (72% in July 2024, 38% in March 2024 and 30% in December 2023). Additionally, the majority of assessed settlements reported no visits from healthcare workers in the month preceding the data collection (81% in July 2024, 42% in March 2024 and 50% in December 2023). This shows a notable shift from December 2023 to July 2024 in both the time to the nearest health facility and the reported lack of visits from health workers to the assessed settlements, which could be due to flash floods that damaged road infrastructure in Rab Dhuure district⁹.

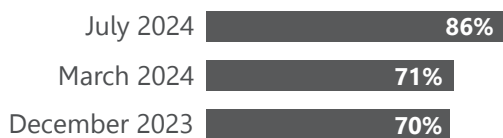
% of assessed settlements where the nearest health facility was more than 30 minutes away using the most common mode of transport at the time of data collection.



% of assessed settlements where KIs reported that households relied on either unimproved sanitation facilities or open defecation at the time of data collection, compared to 70% in December 2023 and 67% in March 2024.



% of assessed settlements where KIs reported that some households used surface water for drinking at the time of data collection.



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

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

This Hard to Reach (H2R) assessment is based on an Area of Knowledge (AoK) methodology which relies on key informants (KIs) quantitative interviews to provide an indicative overview of the situation in the hard-to-reach district of Rab Dhuure, Somalia. The KIs were selected if they were members of the local community living in the target settlement, traveling frequently in and out of the target settlement or recently displaced from the target settlement and were knowledgeable enough to report on the settlement with regards to displacement, basic services, livelihoods, humanitarian access and markets.

This factsheet focuses on settlements under Rab Dhuure district; which is a hard-to-reach district according to the November 2022 and September 2023 Access Working Group (AWG) access severity matrix.

This factsheet presents the findings from Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) conducted during the July 2024, March 2024 and December 2023 rounds of the multi-district HSM assessment, focusing on hard-to-reach settlements in the Rab Dhuure district. The assessment encompassed 15% of the settlements in Rab Dhuure, involving 166 KIIs. The data was collected on July 2024, March 2024 and December 2023. The interviews aimed at gathering insights into the humanitarian conditions and needs of populations living in hard-to-reach districts. It is important to note that the findings are indicative and cannot be generalized to the entire population. For more information on the methodology, see the linked [Methodology Note](#)

ENDNOTES

1. Somalia weather forecast-FAO SWALIM, retrieved from: https://faoswalim.org/resources/site_files/Somalia_Rainfall_Forecast_04_Apr_2024.pdf
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3. Gaps and Needs Analysis- Logistic Cluster, retrieved from: https://s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/logcluster-web-prod-files/public/2024-03/GNA_Somalia_20240322.pdf
4. PRMN Somalia UNHCR, retrieved from: <https://prmn-somalia.unhcr.org/>
5. IPC Somalia: Acute food insecurity situation for June-September 2024 and Projection for April-June 2024, retrieved from: <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1157950/?iso3=SOM>
6. Somalia key message update from FEWS NET, retrieved from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-key-message-update-poor-gu-crop-production-likely-increase-food-assistance-needs-july-2024>
7. Somalia Situational report, 13 August 2024, retrieved from : <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/somalia/somalia-situation-report-13-aug-2024>
8. Somalia Ministry of Health and Human Services e-IDSR Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin: Epi-Week 29 (15th July – 21th July 2024), retrieved from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/awdcholera-weekly-epidemiological-report-epi-week-29-15-july-21-july-2024>
9. SOYDA Quarterly Narrative Report, retrieved from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/soyda-quarterly-progressive-narrative-report-april-june-2024>

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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