

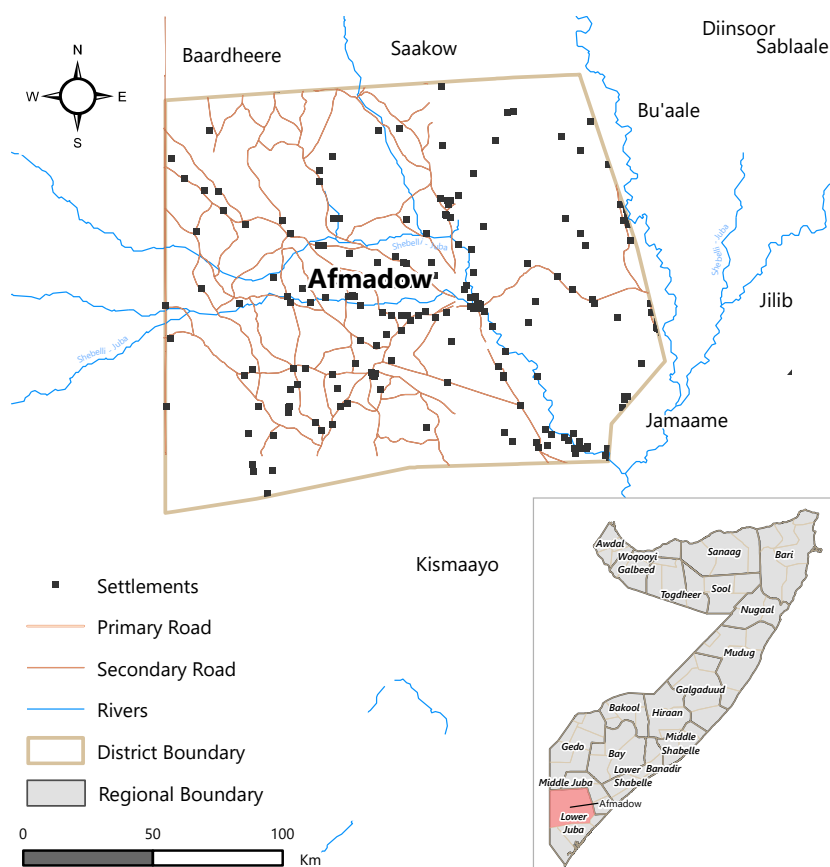
ZOOM-IN: Humanitarian Situation Monitoring (HSM) in Afmadow District, Somalia

March, 2024
Afmadow District, Somalia

KEY MESSAGES

- Past Deyr flooding, coupled with ongoing insecurity, may be limiting access in Afmadow district and could increase humanitarian needs particularly among elderly populations and people with disabilities who want to move but cannot do so.
- Increasing high food prices, compounded by crop losses, could be forcing households to adopt short-term coping strategies to meet basic food needs.
- Access to clean water for drinking, improved sanitation facilities and healthcare facilities was reportedly limited and could exacerbate the risk of cholera outbreaks.

Afmadow District Map



CONTEXT & RATIONALE

Access to essential services and aid in Afmadow districts are severely limited due to security concerns and the impact of the recent Deyr floods. Hard-to-reach settlements 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 Afmadow's hard-to-reach settlements heighten the risk of waterborne diseases like Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) and cholera. With the onset of the Gu rainy season and the expected increase in rainfall, Afmadow, a district prone to flooding, faces an elevated risk of waterborne disease outbreaks, this could exacerbate the humanitarian crises in this district.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

This factsheet presents the findings from Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) conducted during the March 2024 round of the multi-district HSM assessment, focusing on the settlements in the Afmadow district. The assessment encompassed 15% of the settlements in Afmadow, involving a total of 76 KIIs. It is important to note that the findings are indicative and cannot be generalized to the entire population.

* SHOCKS AND ACCESS

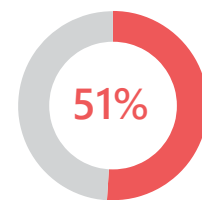
Past Deyr flooding, coupled with ongoing insecurity, may be limiting access in Afmadow district and could increase humanitarian needs—particularly among elderly populations who want to move but cannot do so in hard-to-reach areas. In Afmadow district, nearly all assessed settlements (93%) reported flooding in the 12 months leading up to the data collection. This past flooding and current insecurity, could be blocking present access to the district.^{1,2} In more than half of assessed settlements (51%) roads were either not safe by vehicle or not accessible by vehicle. The Somalia Logistics Cluster similarly reports that roads in and surrounding Afmadow are not passable, the Afmadow airport remains Restricted as of 20 February 2024.³ The combination of flooding and limited access may be exacerbating humanitarian needs, particularly with regards to Food Security, Livelihoods, Healthcare and WASH needs.

With the onset of Gu rains in the broader Jubaland region, there is a heightened risk of deterioration of the existing humanitarian situation in Afmadow district. Almost half of assessed settlements (48%) reportedly had people that wanted to move but could not do so at the time of data collection. Elderly women (55%), elderly men (60%) and people with disabilities (60%) were the most commonly reported populations that wanted to move and could not do so in the settlements where there were such people. This could suggest that elderly populations and people with disabilities in Afmadow could be the most vulnerable if Gu flooding were to occur.

93%

of assessed settlements where flooding was reported as a shock in the 12 months 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.



FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

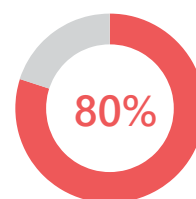
Increasing high food prices, compounded by crop losses, could be forcing households to adopt short-term coping strategies to meet basic food needs. These include borrowing food from other households (86% of assessed settlements), sending children to eat with other households (66%), and purchasing food with borrowed money (62%). Despite this strong reliance on coping strategies, at least more than a quarter of households (more than 25%) did not have enough to eat in almost half of assessed settlements (44%). These findings could suggest that hard-to-reach settlements in Afmadow could be slightly more food insecure than the broader IPC categorisation of Afmadow in IPC 2 at the time of data collection⁴.

The strong reliance on negative coping strategies aligns with reported food price increases (79%) and crop loss (80%) in almost all assessed settlements.* Crop loss, largely due to flooding (97%) during the most recent harvest season, could further decrease income generation in the short-medium term, particularly noting that farming was a main income source in 59% of assessed settlements.

Current road inaccessibility due to past flooding and present insecurity could worsen food insecurity by raising food prices, constraining movement to/from markets and limiting households' ability to plant and sell crops.

79%

of assessed settlements where food prices reportedly increased in the three months prior to data collection.



% of assessed settlements where crop loss was reported for most households during the most recent harvest season.

97%

of assessed settlements where the reason for crop loss was flooding during the most recent harvest season.

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:

Borrow food from another household	86%
Send children to eat with another household	66%
Purchase food with borrowed money	62%

* The remaining 21% were non-consensus.

ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER, SANITATION FACILITIES AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES

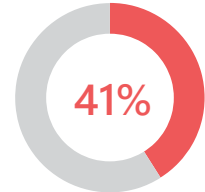
Access to clean water for drinking, improved sanitation facilities and healthcare services was reportedly limited, which could exacerbate the risk of cholera outbreaks. Two-thirds of the assessed settlements reported that some households relied on surface water for drinking (66%). In addition most of the assessed settlements (86%) reportedly relied on unimproved sanitation facilities.

A considerable portion of the assessed settlements also faced constraints in accessing healthcare services, with most residents having to seek medical assistance outside their communities (38%), while others depended on traditional healers (34%). In slightly less than half of assessed settlements (41%), the nearest health facility was more than a whole day away at the time of data collection. Additionally, more than half of assessed settlements (59%) reportedly had no healthcare workers' visits in the month prior to data collection.

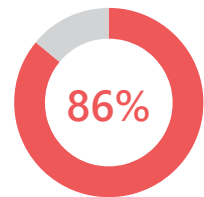
This limited access to healthcare service can lead to outbreaks of waterborne diseases such as diarrhea and cholera⁵. As of 07 April 2024, the neighbouring district of Kismayo reported 50 cases of cholera. Given its proximity to Afmadow district and the frequent movement of people between the two districts, Afmadow could be at risk of cholera outbreaks⁶.

66% of assessed settlements where KIs reported that some households used surface water for drinking at the time of data collection.

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



% of assessed settlements where KIs reported that households relied on unimproved sanitation facilities at the time of data collection.



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 Afmadow, 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 Afmadow 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 March 2024 round of the multi-district HSM assessment, focusing on hard-to-reach settlements in the Afmadow district. The assessment encompassed 15% of the settlements in Afmadow, involving a total of 76 KIIs. The data was collected between 3 March 2024 and 18 March 2024. 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 OCHA Somalia Situational report, retrieved from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-situation-report-30-apr-2024>
- 2 International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO) Quarterly Report - Quarter 1, 2024
- 3 Somalia Logistic cluster, retrieved from: <https://www.logcluster.org/en/ops/som20a>
- 4 IPC Somalia: Acute food insecurity situation for January-March 2024 and Projection for April-June 2024, retrieved from: <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1156834?iso3=SOM>
- 5 OCHA Somalia: 2024 AWD/Cholera outbreak Flash Update No.2 (As of 24 March 2024), retrieved from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-2024-awdcholera-outbreak-flash-update-no2-24-march-2024>
- 6 Somalia Ministry of Health and Human Services e-IDSR Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin: Epi-Week 13 (24th March – 30th March 2024), retrieved from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/e-idr-weekly-epidemiological-bulletin-epi-week-14-31th-march-06th-april-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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