

## CONTEXT

Somaliland is experiencing a prolonged, complex, and multi-faceted humanitarian situation characterised by climate-related droughts, communicable disease outbreaks and fragile social protection mechanisms.<sup>1</sup> The complex nature of the crisis continues to influence displacement patterns and constrain the availability of resources. Since the beginning of 2020, two additional shocks have contributed to a deterioration of humanitarian conditions across the country: vast swarms of desert locusts and the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2</sup> In addition, two consecutive below-average rainfall seasons impacted crop and livestock production in late 2020 and early 2021, driving a sharp increase in the food insecure population in Somaliland.<sup>3</sup> These compounding shocks have exacerbated humanitarian needs among vulnerable populations.

Due to the ongoing shocks, cities like Hargeisa are receiving large waves of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other rural-urban migrants, leading to increased land prices and competition for resources.<sup>4</sup> Property disputes in neighbourhoods where real estate is a prized and scarce commodity are a major source of violence, evictions, and inter-communal tension along clan lines.<sup>4</sup> As a result, the majority of IDPs are increasingly concentrated in semi-urban areas where more vacant land was available.<sup>5</sup> As a consequence, these populations are likely to be left out of networked services and segregated from the rest of the city.

## ASSESSMENT BACKGROUND

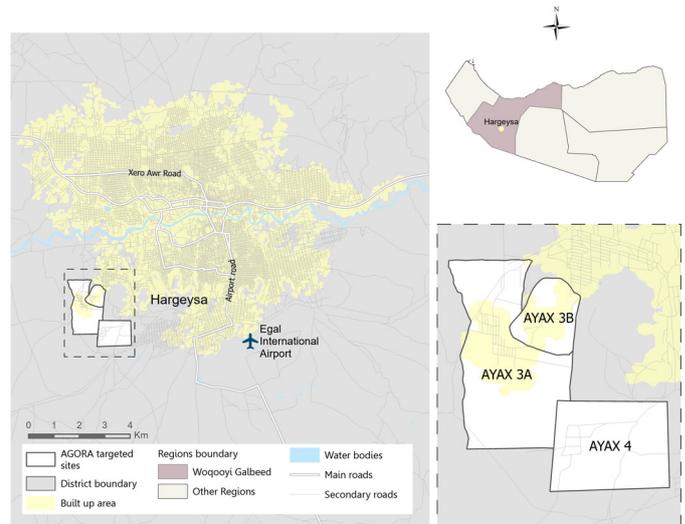
The AGORA assessment was launched as a pilot in Somaliland. The underlying objective of AGORA, in the specific context of Hargeisa, was to integrate the foreseen regular flux of IDPs as a key parameter when planning for durable solutions.<sup>6</sup> The assessment was designated to align with the increasing willingness of humanitarian actors and local authorities to target longer-term solutions and avoid repeated short-term interventions.

AGORA's main aim is to support durable solutions programming by providing aid actors with programmatic, context-specific recommendations, based on area-based assessments, drawing on participatory and inclusive tools.

By conducting a series of comprehensive, mixed-method assessments ranging from settlement mapping and delineation, key informant (KIs) interviews with community leaders and service providers, focus group discussions (FGDs) and household surveys with settlement residents, AGORA can provide an analysis rooted in a local understanding of the context.

Moreover, AGORA intends to go beyond the stage of mapping, needs assessment and planning to propose a durable solutions analysis as well as programme recommendations for ACTED Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) interventions.

## MAP 1: ASSESSED AREAS AND COVERAGE



## KEY FINDINGS

- **Spatial and social organisation:** Findings suggest that settlement Ayah 3A was not constructed with a proper urban plan leading to cramped and uncomfortable living conditions. Key informants outlined how residents were forced into settlement housing in small areas between mountains and a dry valley, following their relocation from Hargeisa City.
- **Social Cohesion:** Findings indicate that residents were supportive to one another and that Ayah 3A residents were generally well-integrated in the Hargeisa urban community with no conflict reported. This could be explained by the fact that the settlement has been established for several years.
- **Health:** Three functional health facilities were reportedly available at the site level. Health service providers reported needing allocation of building material and training of personnel for service management.
- **Education:** Three functional education facilities were found to exist in the settlement, these include two Quranic schools<sup>7</sup> and one primary school. It should be noted that whilst functional the primary school was reportedly in an unfinished building.
- **Water Sanitation and Hygiene:** Three water facilities exist in the settlement, one kiosk and two piped systems, however it was reported that none are functional, and residents were getting water from private water trucks. In addition, no public sanitation facilities were reported within the site.
- **Community Infrastructures:** The settlement's roads were found to be unpaved, negatively affecting residents' ability to connect to Hargeisa city centre and access key services. A working community centre was found to be available at the settlement level to be held in regular community committee meetings, trainings, and consultation workshops for the residents.
- **Markets:** Findings suggest that there were no markets found in the settlement. KIs indicated that they needed to travel long distances back to Hargeisa in order to purchase essential goods.

## **METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW <sup>8</sup>**

The AGORA pilot in Hargeisa was implemented to carry out an area based assessment (ABA)<sup>9</sup>, in order to identify programmatic recommendations for further CCCM activities.

Data was collected through quantitative and qualitative methods between **26<sup>th</sup> of January to 08<sup>th</sup> of March 2022**.

The overall area-based assessment has been implemented according to a methodological sequencing:

- Phase 1: Territory mapping and understanding of settlement layout (neighbourhood delineation, facilities mapping);
- Phase 2: Needs assessment (HH surveys, FGDs) and durable solutions identification (participatory workshops);
- Phase 3: Programmatic recommendations (Relief/Recovery/Durable solution interventions prioritisation and coordination workshop).

This factsheet only presents the results of Phase 1, for Ayah 3A settlement. Separate factsheets are available for Ayah 4 and Ayah 3B.

The first stage of phase one aimed at mapping the IDP settlement, with the help of community representatives, in terms of spatial organisation and social interactions. The purpose of this preliminary understanding of the territory was to define the most coherent and relevant geographical unit for future local interventions.

The AGORA team first conducted interviews with local leaders in order to understand the spatial and social organisation of the settlement.

Following these key informant interviews (KIIs), the AGORA team organised a mapping FGD<sup>10</sup> with all the KIIs interviewed previously. The main objective of this FGD was to map the internal and external boundaries of the settlement as well as the key infrastructures available for the community. A printed satellite imagery map of the settlement was used as a support for the discussion.

Finally, AGORA conducted structured interviews with service providers KIIs within the IDP site (water sources, sanitation facilities, health structures, schools and educational facilities, markets) of previous identified facilities in the MFGD, recording their exact GPS points.

The aim of this tool was to comprehensively measure gaps in the provision of essential services, both in terms of number and level of functionality.

The limitations of the assessment include authorities understanding of the AGORA approach which has taken more time than anticipated and It is important to note that qualitative findings are not generalisable with a known level of precision and should hence be considered indicative only.

In Ayah 3A, AGORA team conducted:

- 7** KIIs with local leaders,
- 1** Mapping FGDs,
- 9** KIIs with service providers.

## **SPATIAL AND SOCIAL ORGANISATION** **SETTLEMENT INFORMATION**

According to the AGORA assessment, Ayah 3A had been established in 2012; KIIs reported that the government owned the land before the settlement was established.

Most of the KIIs reported that residents had been forcibly relocated to Ayah 3A without consultation; they were moved from different parts of Hargeisa city; Governor office building, 150 street, Hargeisa group Hospital and Goljanno cemetery.

KIIs reported that diverse social groups were living in the settlement. The main population group was reportedly composed of Ethiopian communities, communities from south central districts of Somalia and from Isaq clan members.<sup>11</sup> Despite the existence of multiple social groups, KIIs commonly indicated that there was no particular group that held more power than other groups in the settlement.

Furthermore, KIIs reported that there were no social or leisure facilities existing in the settlement, According to KIIs, residents usually relax and share information in teashops located in the centre of the site. Finally, KIIs added that most of the residents sought livelihood and employment opportunities to Hargeisa city centre.

### **LAND TENURE**

The majority of the KIIs reported that Ayah 3A residents own a piece of land and have documents proving their ownership. According to the KIIs this documentation had been provided by the local government when relocating the population from the city to Ayah 3A.

### **SPATIAL ORGANISATION**

According to the KIIs Ayah 3A settlement is located on a plain between mountains, beside a dry valley that follows nearby the residential area. KIIs reported that the valley cut the transport going and coming back from the Hargeisa city during the rainy season, which has contributed to the difficulties related to the reliance on Hargeisa city.

The participants of the mapping FGD outlined that the settlement was not established with a proper urban plan or well-structured layout, which made the settlement housing look disorganised, cramped, and had unfavourable living conditions.



Moreover, KIs reported that new arrivals were coming to the settlement and building new houses in the middle of street spaces consequently making the limited road spaces narrow and congested.

**SOCIAL COHESION**

Social cohesion is one of the main indicators considered when informing solutions for the displaced people living in settlements.<sup>12</sup> KIs commonly reported perceiving that site residents had a good relationship with Hargeisa's urban population. Most KIs reported perceiving that social

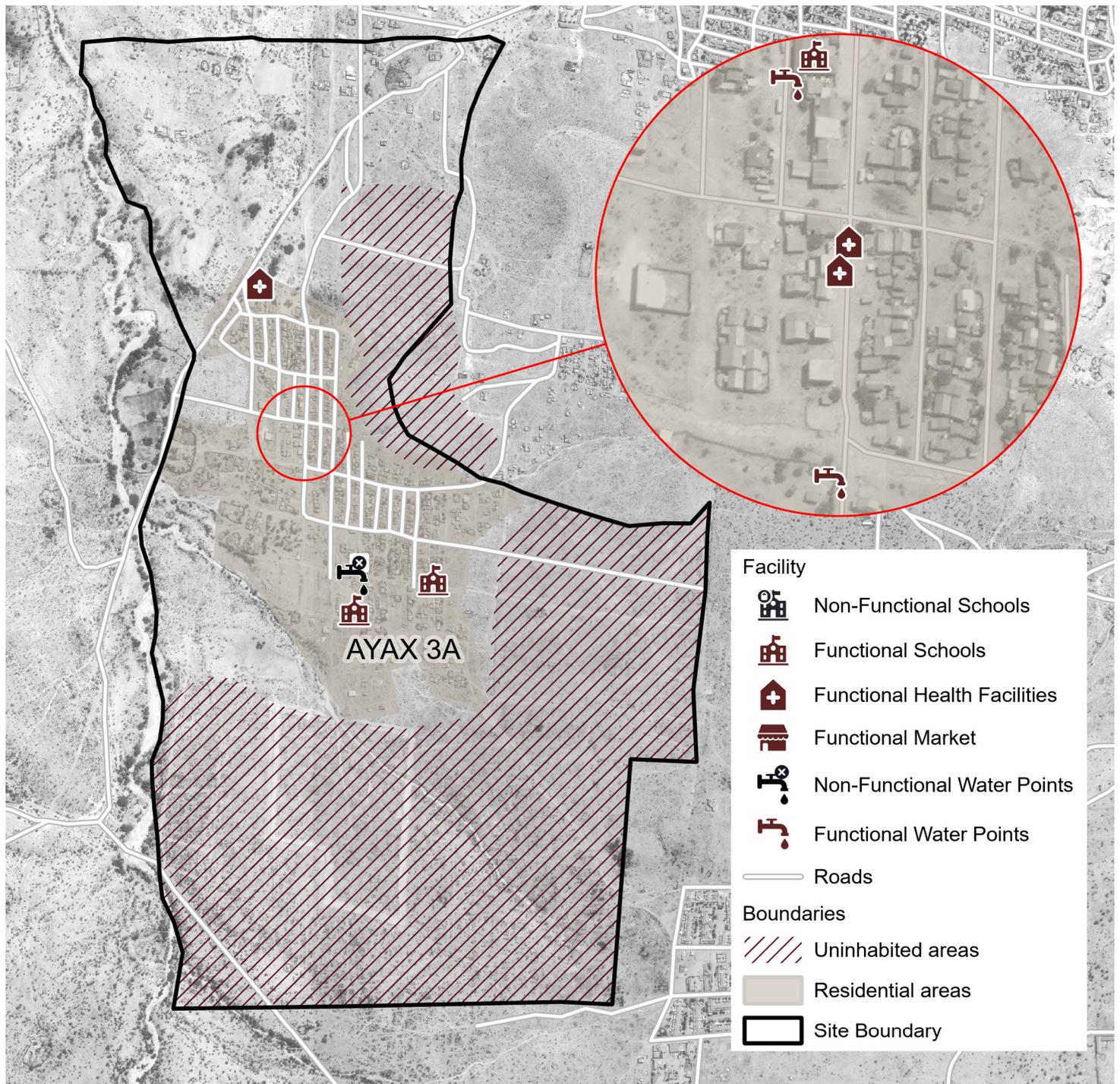
cohesion in the settlement was strong and communities were supportive of one another.

Moreover, conflicts that arise in the settlement are reportedly handled via community mediation, in situations where disputes cannot be resolved this way, KIs reported that community members are able to report grievances to the police. Some KIs also mentioned local actors and the formal process of justice as potential conflict mediation means.

Most of the KIs reported that traditional elders and the police were the main stakeholders mobilised to ease tensions between families in the settlement.

**SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURES**

**MAP 2: BASIC SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURES AVAILABLE AT THE SITE LEVEL**



**HEALTH**

**Reported number and type of health facilities**

First aid post	0
Pharmacy	2
District hospital	0
Mobile clinic	0
Private clinic	0
NGO clinic	0
Government run clinic	0
Maternal child health centre (MCH)	1

According to the KIs, three health service facilities were found to be available at the site level. These were one maternity child health centre (MCH) and two pharmacies. All health facilities were reported functioning, and they presented durable buildings (shelter or house made of bricks, with doors and windows).

KIs reported that the three health facilities had qualified doctors that possess official medical diplomas to provide health care. KIs reported that health facilities were accessible to persons with disabilities, children, and elders. Two out of the three facilities had a referral system in place to Hargeisa city hospitals. In addition, KIs reported that the MCH and one pharmacy provided vaccination.

Furthermore, KIs reported only one facility experienced users' conflict on service access and two out of the three health facilities have a service management committee (the MCH and one pharmacy).

Finally, KIs in the settlement did not identify any major constraints for the health service.

**Main support needed for the facilities reported by the health service providers were:**

Training of medical staff	2 KIs
Community sensitisation on infrastructure use	2 KIs
Allocation of building materials/equipment	1 KI
Direct cash provision	1 KI

**WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

**Reported number and type of water facilities**

Water kiosk	1
Piped system	2
Wells	0
River/Pond	0
Water tank and tap	0
Borehole with submersible pump	0

According to KIs there were three water facilities existing in the site: one kiosk and two piped systems. KIs reported that the facilities were found not functioning at all due to lack of maintenance, destruction of infrastructure, and theft of equipment.

KIs added that International NGOs and municipal authorities built these water facilities. Finally, there were no water service management committees found in the site.

In addition, KIs reported that residents were getting water from private water trucks.

The second phase of the assessment will present constraints residents face access to water sanitation and hygiene in the settlement.

**Main constraints reported by water service providers were:**

Lack of materials and equipment	2 KIs
Theft of equipment	1 KI
Lack of financial resources	1 KI
Water scarcity (seasonality)	1 KI

**Main support needed for the facilities reported by the water service providers were:**

Infrastructure rehabilitation	3 KIs
Community sensitisation on facility use	1 KI
Training of personnel for service management	1 KI
Direct cash provision	1 KI

According to KIs there were no community sanitation facilities available at the settlement level. Participants in the mapping FGD indicated that there were 150 private latrines in the site, shared by multiple households.

KIs reported that waste collection was undertaken by a private company, charging three USD per month per household.



**EDUCATION**

**Reported number and type of education facilities**

Quranic schools	2
Primary schools	1
Intermediate schools	0
Secondary schools	0
Technical and vocational schools	0

According to the KIs there were three education facilities in the settlement. All the educational facilities were reported as functional.

The two Quranic schools were reported to present durable buildings constructed by religious organisation. However, the primary school was working in an unfinished building that was built by the municipal authorities and an International NGO.

KIs reported that education facilities were open to both girls and boys and provide education services for this scholastic year 2021/2022. KIs added that facilities have qualified teachers with official teaching diplomas were present in the education facilities.

According to the KIs for one Quranic school, it was reported that if the students were not able to pay the monthly fees, they would not be allowed to attend class. No further sanctions to education services access were found to be in place.

Additionally, education service providers reported that parents must pay immediately to enroll their children in school on top of the monthly dues for the first month. Two out of the three education facilities reported they charged 1-5 USD and one facility charged 5-10 USD, as an enrollment fee per student that was a one-time payment.<sup>13</sup>

Two out of the three facilities reported they did not have a service management committee. The primary school only had a school parents committee. Education service providers reported that they did not receive any kind of support<sup>14</sup> for the education service management.

Finally, according to the interviewed service providers, a higher proportion of boys were enrolled in primary schools, while the contrary was found for Quranic schools.

**Main constraints reported by the key service providers were:**

Lack of financial resources	2 KIs
Lack of materials /equipment	2 KIs
Overuse and pressure on the service	1 KI

**Main support needed for the facilities reported by the education service providers were:**

Infrastructure rehabilitation	2 KIs
Community sensitisation on infrastructure use	2 KIs
Direct cash provision	1 KI
Training personnel for service management	1 KI
Allocation of building materials or equipment	1 KI

**MARKETS**

KIs reported that there was no market infrastructure in the site, only street shops were available at a site level. KIs reported that economic generation opportunities such as employment were sought in the centre of Hargeisa.

KIs reported that commodities transported from Hargeisa city centre are expensive and associated with a limited supply of stock because of the lack of market facility in the settlement.

**COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURES**

**Reported number and type of community infrastructures**

Community centre	1
Persons with disability centre	0
Information centre	0

According to KIs, the settlement has a community centre, built by an international NGO, was available for the community. Community committees use the centre for their regular meetings and in addition, the workshops and trainings for the community were convened at the centre.

The roads that connect Ayah 3A to the rest of the city were found to be unpaved; as a consequence, especially during the rainy season, residents face higher access constraints to services in the city centre of Hargeisa.

Participants from the mapping FGD indicated that there were no persons with disability centres nor information centres existing in the settlement. Residents seek services regarding disability in the Ayah 4 settlement persons with disability centre.<sup>15</sup>

Road conditions	Unpaved
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## STAKEHOLDER AND INTERVENTIONS

KIs reported that international NGOs in collaboration with government agencies like the National Displacement and Refugee Agency (NDRA), was involved in the development of the settlement.

KIs specified that the Horn of Africa Youth Committee (HAVOYOCO)<sup>16</sup> implemented cash distribution as part of an education support activity.

Key informants added that these projects were very useful to the settlement.

Finally, all KIs agreed that they did not hear about durable solutions programming before and were not aware of such activities in the settlement.

### Annex 1: Endnotes & References

1. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNCOHA), [Humanitarian Needs Overview](#), October 2021.
2. [IPC Acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition analysis January - June 2021](#)
3. Famine Early Warning Systems Network and Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FewsNet and FSNAU), [Food Security Outlook: June 2021 to January 2022](#).
4. [World Bank data, Urbanization review 2021](#).
5. Ibid
6. "A durable solution is reached when a displaced person no longer has any protection or assistance needs related to their displacement, and can exercise their rights without discrimination linked to their displacement." [Inter Agency Standing Committee \(IASC\) Framework On Durable Solutions for internally displaced people](#).
7. Quranic school is an Islamic institute where typically children at age of 5-14 acquire familiarity with the Quran, an informal school that is also known as a madrasah.
8. Full methodology of the AGORA assessment can be found in terms of reference (ToR) and is available upon request.
9. An Area Based Assessment (ABA) employed a mixed methods approach, composed of both qualitative and quantitative components. The qualitative component included: semi-structured key informant interviews (KIIs) with community leaders, and with individuals with specialised knowledge of service provision in the area, community focus group discussions (FGDs), and participatory mapping sessions in neighbourhoods that make up the area.
10. Mapping focus group discussion [MFGD] brought together the interviewed Key informants who participated in Key informant interview with local leaders to map where the services are located in the settlement, and to identify the boundaries of the settlement. To support the discussion printed satellite imagery maps were presented to the participants.
11. Isaq clan is one of the prominent Somali clans who reside mainly in Somaliland territory.
12. [Core elements to inform Solutions planning and programming ReDSS](#)
13. Phase two of the AGORA assessment which is included the Household level surveys will present more on how the settlement residents access key services such as education health and WASH.
14. KIs reported rehabilitation of infrastructure and community sensitisation on infrastructure use are the key priority needs for the education service additional needs were also reported see the table and graph presenting main support needed for better education service provision.
15. Ayah 4 disability centre is 2 KM away from the residents.
16. [HAVOYOCO](#): is a local civil society organisation working in the settlement .





AGORA is a local planning initiative that promotes the recovery of fragile territories. By encouraging aid actors to work more effectively with local stakeholders, it provides concrete and concerted orientations to the specific recovery challenges of areas affected by humanitarian crises.

The AGORA initiative directly strengthens territorial mechanisms for basic services recovery, based on a approach built on understanding multi-sectoral needs, multi-stakeholder planning, community participation and good governance enhancement.

ACTED and IMPACT bring together their expertise through the AGORA Initiative, which brings together local institutions, humanitarian and development actors around a common agenda, specific to each territory, in order to support the move towards recovery and local development.

For more information, please visit our website: [www.agora-initiative.org](http://www.agora-initiative.org).

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