Research Methodology Note

Humanitarian Situation Monitoring (HSM)

SOM1901

Somalia

November 2025
Version 1

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

1. Executive Summary

Country of intervention	*Somalia*					
Type of Emergency	X	Natural disaster	X	Conflict	□	Other *(specify)*
Type of Crisis	□	Sudden onset	□	Slow onset	□	Protracted
Mandating Body/ Agency	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG)					
IMPACT Project Code	*27BEG*					
Overall Research Timeframe *(from research design to final outputs / M&E)*	16/11/2025 to 28/02/2026					
Research Timeframe *Add planned deadlines (for first cycle if more than 1)*	1. Pilot/ training: 07/01/2026- 08/01/2026		6. Preliminary presentation: N/A			
	2. Start collect data: 10/01/2026		7. Outputs sent for validation: 12/02/2026			
	3. Data collected: 18/01/2026		8. Outputs published: • Clean dataset: 28/01/2026 • Formatted analysis: 29/01/2026 • Key findings brief: 19/02/2026			
	4. Data analysed: 22/01/2026		9. Final presentation: 13/02 /2026			
	5. Data sent for validation: 23/01/2026					
Number of assessments	X	Single assessment (one cycle)				
	□	Multi assessment (more than one cycle) *[Describe here the frequency of the cycle]*				

Humanitarian milestones *Specify **what** will the assessment inform and **when** e.g. The shelter cluster will use this data to draft its Revised Flash Appeal;*	**Milestone**		**Deadline (can be tentative)**
	□	Donor plan/strategy	_ _/_ _/_ _ _ _
	□	Inter-cluster plan/strategy	_ _/_ _/_ _ _ _
	X	Cluster plan/strategy - Education, Shelter and WASH cluster planning-IPC	22/02/2026
	□	NGO platform plan/strategy	_ _/_ _/_ _ _ _
	□	Other (Specify):	_ _/_ _/_ _ _ _

Audience Type & Dissemination *Specify **who** will the assessment inform and **how** you will disseminate to inform the audience*	**Audience type** **X** Strategic **X** Programmatic □ Operational □ [Other, Specify]		**Dissemination** **X** General Product Mailing (e.g. mail to NGO consortium; HCT participants; Donors) □ Cluster Mailing (Education, Shelter and WASH) and presentation of findings at next cluster meeting □ Presentation of findings (e.g. at HCT meeting; Cluster meeting) **X** Website Dissemination (Relief Web & REACH Resource Centre) □ [Other, Specify]	
Stakeholder mapping *Has a detailed stakeholder mapping been conducted during research design to identify all actors that could **contribute** to and/or **benefit from** the research?*	**X**	Yes	□	No
General Objective	This assessment aims to inform humanitarian planning in Somalia by providing multi-sectoral information on humanitarian needs in hard-to-reach settlements where access is constrained by insecurity or physical barriers. It covers key humanitarian clusters, Education, Food Security, Health, Protection, Shelter, and WASH, alongside cross-cutting insights on service access and displacement dynamics.			
Specific Objective(s)	• To assess the humanitarian needs (Education, Food Security, Health, Shelter, Protection, and WASH) of populations living in hard-to-reach settlements. • To identify which population groups are moving out of hard-to-reach settlements and which groups are unable to move, and the factors influencing movement and immobility. • To identify primary livelihoods in hard-to-reach settlements and assess how climatic hazards (including lack of rain, drought) and economic conditions (including ways to earn income) influence primary livelihoods and income-earning opportunities. • To assess access to basic services, and humanitarian assistance for households in hard-to-reach settlements and the barriers that impede access to services. • To identify protection concerns affecting individuals and households in hard-to-reach settlements. • To understand the types of humanitarian assistance and services that people in hard-to- reach settlement have access to and constraints to accessing humanitarian assistance and services. • To examine the coping strategies, including negative coping mechanisms, adopted by households in response to humanitarian needs, shocks, and access constraints.			
Research Questions	• What are humanitarian needs of populations in hard-to-reach settlements with regards to Education, Food Security, Health, Shelter, Protection and WASH? • How do shocks, climatic hazards and economic conditions influence humanitarian needs in hard-to-reach settlements? • Which population groups are moving out of hard-to-reach settlements, and what factors are driving movement out of hard-to-reach settlements? • Are some population groups unable to move, but would like to do so? If yes, whom? • What are the barriers and negative coping strategies that further drive these humanitarian needs? • What are the primary livelihood activities in hard-to-reach settlements, and how are these livelihoods affected by climatic hazards and economic conditions. What are the shocks, climatic hazards and economic conditions influencing livelihoods and humanitarian needs in hard-to-reach settlements and movement out of hard-to-reach settlements?			

	• To which services and types of humanitarian assistance, if any, do populations in hard-to-reach settlements have access to? What are the constraints to accessing services and humanitarian assistance? • What are the major protection risks faced by individuals and households in hard-to-reach settlements (e.g., GBV, child protection issues, security threats)? • Which groups are most vulnerable to protection concerns, and what factors contribute to their heightened vulnerability? • To which services and types of humanitarian assistance, if any, do populations in hard-to-reach settlements have access to? What are the constraints to accessing services and humanitarian assistance? • To examine coping strategies, including negative coping mechanisms, adopted by households in response to humanitarian needs, shocks, and access constraints. • What coping strategies, including negative coping mechanisms, are households using to respond to humanitarian needs, shocks, and access constraints?
Geographic Coverage	This assessment will cover hard-to-reach settlements with Very Heavy Restrictions in 41 districts in Central, East, North East and Southern Somalia. For this assessment, hard-to-reach settlements will be defined as settlements in Districts categorized as Very Heavy Restrictions by the Access Working Group (AWG)) due to physical access constraints (i.e., lack of roads, flooding) or security concerns (i.e., clan conflict, presence of armed actors). The final list of districts can be found in section 3 – Methodology.
Secondary data sources	• Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit publications • Somalia IPC reports • Somalia WASH cluster publications • Somalia Health cluster publications • Somalia Shelter cluster publications • Somalia Protection cluster publications • Somalia Education cluster publications • WHO epidemiological reporting on Somalia • Somalia Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) dashboard • Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), 2025 • Somalia World Food Program Annual Country report • Somalia Livelihood Zones - Map • IOM DTM (Displacement Tracking Matrix) • Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) publications • Food Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) Somalia publications

Population(s) *Select all that apply*				
	□	IDPs in camp	□	IDPs in informal sites
	□	IDPs in host communities	□	IDPs [Other, Specify]
	□	Refugees in camp	□	Refugees in informal sites
	□	Refugees in host communities	□	Refugees [Other, Specify]
	□	Host communities	**X**	Populations in hard-to-reach settlements

Stratification *Select type(s) and enter number of strata*						
	X	Geographical #:41 District Population size per strata is known? □ Yes **X** No	□	Group #: _ _ _ Population size per strata is known? □ Yes **X** No	□	*[Other Specify]* #: _ _ Population size per strata is known? □ Yes **X** No

Data collection tool(s)				
	X	Structured (Quantitative)	□	Semi-structured (Qualitative)
	Sampling method		**Data collection method**	

Structured data collection tool # 1 *Select sampling and data collection method and specify target # interviews*	**X** Purposive □ Probability / Simple random □ Probability / Stratified simple random □ Probability / Cluster sampling □ Probability / Stratified cluster sampling **X** Snowballing			**X** Key informant interview (Target #): 3176 □ Group discussion (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ □ Household interview (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ □ Individual interview (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ □ Direct observations (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ □ [Other, Specify] (Target #):_ _ _ _ _		
Target level of precision if probability sampling	N/A % level of confidence			N/A +/- % margin of error		
Disaggregation by gender and age *Are you planning to conduct sex/age disaggregated analysis?*	Gender			Age		
	□	Yes		□	Yes	
	X	No		**X**	No	
Data management platform(s)	**X**	IMPACT		□	UNHCR	
	□	[Other, Specify]				
Expected ouput type(s)	□	Situation overview #: _ _	□	Report #: _ _	□	Profile #: _ _
	□	Presentation (Preliminary findings) #: N/A	□	Presentation (Final) #: -1 overall key findings presentation to Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and/or Access Working Group and IPC. -Protection Cluster	□	Factsheet #: (One) 1 Key Findings brief
	□	Interactive dashboard #: N/A	□	Webmap #: _ _	□	Map #: 1 coverage map (further maps pending findings and capacity)
	□	[Other, Specify] #: _ _				
Access	**X**	Public (available on REACH resource center and other humanitarian platforms)				
	□	Restricted (bilateral dissemination only upon agreed dissemination list, no publication on REACH or other platforms)				
Visibility *Specify which **logos** should be on outputs*	***REACH** [By default unless specified otherwise]*					
	Donor: USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE; Funded by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid; REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action					

	Coordination Framework: *N/A*
	Partners: *N/A*

2. Rationale

2.1 Background

Somalia is experiencing a deepening humanitarian crisis driven by compounded climate shocks, including recurrent drought, erratic rainfall, and intensifying floods, which are intersecting with protracted conflict, chronic under-resourcing, and rising food prices. According to recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, approximately 1.8 million children under the age of five are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition by the end of 2025, with hundreds of thousands facing severe acute malnutrition. The climate shocks have severely undermined livelihoods: below-average rains in late 2024 led to sharp declines in crop production, depletion of water sources, and large-scale livestock losses.

On top of that, riverine and flash flooding in regions such as Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, and Middle Juba have destroyed standing crops and disrupted markets, contributing to further increases in food prices. In mid-April, over 84,000 people were displaced by flash floods, highlighting the acute vulnerability of flood-affected communities[1]. In tandem, Erratic rainfall, flooding, and ongoing conflict have pushed about 3.4 million people across Somalia into severe acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or higher). From July to September 2025, roughly 624,000 people (3% of the population) were in Emergency conditions (IPC Phase 4), while over 2.8 million (15%) were facing Crisis-level food insecurity (IPC Phase 3). In the northern regions, poor rain and drought resulted in failed harvests and weak livestock production and reproduction. In central and southern Somalia, conflict and flooding disrupted agropastoral and riverine farming systems, causing population displacement, limiting livelihood activities, and restricting access to markets[2].

Looking ahead to October–December 2025, food security is expected to further deteriorate, as Deyr season rainfall is forecast to be below average. Coupled with high food prices, ongoing conflict, and localized flooding, these conditions are projected to push 4.4 million people (23% of the population) into acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or worse). During this period, urban IDPs in Bay and Bakool are likely to worsen from Phase 3 to Phase 4, and urban residents in Nugaal (Burtinle and Eyl) may shift from IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) to Phase 3.[3]

This distress is driving widespread internal displacement with reportedly 119,454 IDPs displaced between 1 Jul 2025 - 31 Oct 2025, often to informal sites where humanitarian access is restricted. Heightened insecurity, ongoing conflict, and under-funding are exacerbating barriers to aid delivery, limiting access to essential services.[4] Meanwhile, gaps in funding and coordination continue to hinder a timely, large-scale humanitarian response, underscoring the imperative for a coordinated, multi-sector strategy to address the multifaceted crisis.[5]

The goal of the assessment is to draw attention to the severity of the needs in hard-to-reach districts, and to generate evidence that supports prioritization and informed decision making. Even though different humanitarian actors have done ad-hoc sectoral assessments in parts of South-Central regions, research that

[1] OCHA, UN raises alarm as flash floods displace 84,000 in Somalia, kill 17 amid worsening climate crisis
[2] Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for July - September 2025 and Projection for October - December 2025 | IPC - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
[3] Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for July - September 2025 and Projection for October - December 2025 | IPC - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
[4] UNHCR PRNM Dashboard PRMN Dashboard
[5] Drought and funding gaps deepen Somalia's malnutrition crisis - Somalia | ReliefWeb

would give a regular multi-sectoral overview of the humanitarian situation in those areas has so far been lacking.

2.2 Intended impact

This round of the hard-to-reach assessment will happen in December 2025, in the Jilal season, the driest and coolest season of the year after the post Gu season. The findings will contribute to the IPC to better understand evolving emergency needs (Food Security & Livelihoods, Health and WASH). This assessment will also help inform displacement dynamics and the influence of climatic hazards/economic conditions within hard-to-reach districts which can then inform humanitarian actors (clusters, donors and partners including Protection, Education, Shelter and CCM clusters in Somalia) when planning for the post Deyr season and the post Deyr IPC.

3. Methodology

3.1 Methodology overview

This assessment aims to offer settlement-level data of hard-to-reach areas where face-to-face household surveys are not feasible through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). KIIs are conducted with Key Informants (KIs) who are residents of the target hard-to-reach settlement at the time of data collection via mobile phone interviews. If mobile phone interviews are not possible, then KIIs are conducted with KIs who are knowledgeable of the target hard-to-reach settlement via face-to-face interviews in accessible locations. All KIs will be snowballed by enumerators and Field Officers using contacts from local NGOs, INGOs in addition to contacts from previous REACH assessments. All KIs will be selected based on their knowledge of the targeted hard-to-reach settlements.

> The Area of knowledge (AoK) approach will consist of identifying key informants (KIs) who can testify about the humanitarian needs of a specific area. These KIs are identified based on their knowledge of the specific area that is being assessed, either because they have been displaced from this area recently or because they travel a lot in this area, or because they still have family or friends residing in the area that they can contact[6]. Field Officers will make sure to keep an up-to-date contact list of potential KIs and local guides to build a strong network at the field level. Data collection will be conducted both at REACH bases and in IDP sites or settlements accessible to AoK KIIs.
>
> Data collection methods are supervised by one officer in each of the Four locations – Baidoa, Kismayo, Galkacyo and Mogadishu. Internally Displaced Persons (IDP sites that received new arrivals from hard-to-reach settlements in the previous three months, new IDP sites (set up in the last three months by people who arrived from hard-to-reach settlements) and accessible settlements will be identified through the REACH field team, local authorities, humanitarian organization, and REACH field networks. A structured, close-ended questionnaire is administered to the KIs through the KOBO application. Data will be collected at the settlement level, i.e., the questionnaire relates to settlement level humanitarian needs, not individual needs. Three (3) key informant interviews (KIIs) will be conducted at each settlement; The details of the number of target settlements are included in Table 2.

3.2 Population of interest

The assessment targets the hard-to-reach settlements in Somalia that are located within the following regions: Bakool, Bay, Gedo, Galgadud, Mudug, Sanaag, Bari, Sool, Middle Shabelle, Lower Shabelle, Lower Juba and

[6] REACH-AoK-Validation-Study-Summary-Report-October-2023-4.pdf

Middle Juba. These districts and settlements were categorized as Very Heavy Restrictions by the Access Working Group (AWG) due to physical access constraints (i.e., lack of roads, flooding) or security concerns (i.e., clan conflict, presence of armed actors)[7].

Table 1: Overview of data collection sites:

Region	State	District
Bakool	South West	Ceel Barde
		Rab Dhuure
		Tayeeglow
		Wajid
		Xudur
Bay	South West	Baidoa
		Bur Hakaba
		Diinsoor
Belet Weyne	Hirshabelle	Bulo Burto
		Jalalaqsi
Galgadud	Hirshabelle	Cadale
	Galmudug	Ceel Buur
		Ceel Dheer
		Ceel Waaq
		Dhuusamarreeb
		Hobyo
		Xarardheere
Gedo	Jubaland	Baardheere
		Luuq
Lower Juba	Jubaland	Afmadow
		Badhaadhe
		Kismaayo
Lower Shabelle	South West	Afgooye
		Kurtunwaarey
		Qoryooley
		Sablaale
		Wanla Weyn
Middle Juba	Jubaland	Bu'aale
		Jamaame
		Jilib
		Saakow
Middle Shabelle	Hirshabelle	Adan Yabaa
		Balcad

[7] FSNAU, PowerPoint Presentation (fsnau.org)

Mudug	Puntland	Caluula
		Qandala
Sanaag	North East	Laasqoray
Sool	North East	Buuhoodle
		Laas Caanood
		Xudun
South West	Lower Shabelle	Baraawe

3.3 Secondary data review

In addition to the secondary data outlined earlier in this Methodology Note, additional sources will be used:

- Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit publications
- Somalia IPC reports
- Somalia WASH cluster publications
- Somalia Health cluster publications
- Somalia Shelter cluster publications
- Somalia Protection cluster publications
- Somalia Education cluster publications
- WHO epidemiological reporting on Somalia
- Somalia Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) dashboard
- Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), 2024 - Somalia
- Somalia World Food Program Annual Country report
- Somalia Livelihood Zones - Map
- IOM DTM (Displacement Tracking Matrix)
- OCHA Somalia: 2024 Gu Season Heavy Rains and Floods
- Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) publications
- Food Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) Somalia publications

As much as possible, secondary sources will be used to contextualize findings.

3.4 Primary Data Collection

Given that physical access to the target locations is limited and there is no possibility of drawing up a representative sample, purposive sampling will be adopted for both the Area of Knowledge and the mobile phone data collection methods.

Key Informants (KIs) from each of the settlements will be selected based on their knowledge of the target settlement. If the KI is not living in the hard-to-reach settlement, then the following eligibility criteria will apply (and is integrated into the data collection tool):

1) Being newly displaced from the target hard-to-reach settlement within the past 30 days before the start of data collection or having visited the target hard-to-reach settlement in the last 30 days prior to the start of data collection.
2) Having been in contact with residents living in the target hard-to-reach settlement in the last 30 days prior to the start of data collection as a healthcare worker, business professional, traders or relative.
3) Reporting a targeted hard-to-reach settlement where at least one household remained. Since the assessment aims to fill gaps in understanding the humanitarian context, targeting settlements

that are no longer inhabited would not contribute to this.

The questionnaire includes a section to abet the snowballing approach. The interviewees will be asked if they can refer the REACH team to another KI that matched the eligibility criteria, from the target hard-to-reach settlement or any other target hard-to-reach settlement. The contact details of these additional KIs will be collected for sampling purposes only. Field Officers (FOs) will make sure to keep an up-to-date contact list of potential KIs and local guides to build a strong network at the field level. This information will not be shared externally and will be stored only on REACH assets, protected by a password.

Table 2: Targets per Hard-to-Reach District are as follows:

District	Total number of settlements	Target number of settlements (25% of the total settlements)	Target number of interviews (Maximum of 3 interviews per settlement)
Adan Yabaal	23	6	17
Afgooye	314	79	236
Afmadow	79	20	59
Baardheere	132	33	99
Badhaadhe	41	10	31
Balcad	157	39	118
Baraawe	31	8	23
Belet Weyne	167	42	125
Bu'aale	53	13	40
Bulo Burto	156	39	117
Buuhoodle	47	12	35
Buur Hakaba	597	149	448
Cadale	43	11	32
Caluula	60	15	45
Ceel Barde	26	7	20
Ceel Buur	48	12	36
Ceel Dheer	32	8	24
Ceel Waaq	41	10	31
Dhuusamarreeb	56	14	42
Diinsoor	116	29	87
Hobyo	117	29	88
Jalalaqsi	72	18	54
Jamaame	82	21	62
Jilib	79	20	59
Kismaayo	41	10	31
Kurtunwaarey	46	12	35
Laas Caanood	38	10	29
Laasqoray	44	11	33
Luuq	136	34	102
Qandala	68	17	51
Qansax Dheere	77	19	58
Qoryooley	202	51	152
Rab Dhuure	83	21	62
Saakow	39	10	29

Sablaale	32	8	24
Tayeeglow	120	30	90
Waajid	39	10	29
Wanla Weyn	453	113	340
Xarardheere	22	6	17
Xudun	29	7	22
Xudur	196	49	147
Total	**4234**	**1059**	**3176**

TABLE 3: REACH Collection Base: District KI interview targets, per base

Base	Total number of KIs
Mogadishu	669
Baidoa	1780
Kisimayo	512
Galkacyo	215

The tool will include questions on: Education, Food Security, Livelihoods, Health, Accountability to Affected Population (AAP), Movement, Protection, Shelter and WASH; and has been adapted to specifically capture the influence of climate hazards and economic conditions. Most indicators will be collected at the settlement level, except for a selection of individual-level indicators regarding the KI's profile (including eligibility questions) which is asked to all KIs. For most indicators, KIs will be reporting at the time of data collection unless otherwise specified. Data collection will be organized as follows:

- Training of Trainers (ToTs): A one-day training of trainers will be conducted for the field officers of the four above-mentioned bases.
- Enumerator training: A two-day training for Enumerators directly after the ToT.
- Pilot data collection: A one-day pilot, conducted by Enumerators and Field Officers, to test the tool before data collection commences. The field officers and assessment officers will continually test the tool until the ToT.
- Data collection: A two-week data collection, including mobile phone interviews with KIs from the target hard-to-reach settlements and face-to-face AoK approach with KIs from target hard-to-reach settlements, from the REACH bases of Baidoa, Kismayo and Mogadishu.
- Data cleaning: Daily data check and cleaning will be conducted by the field and assessment teams during data collection.

3.5 Data Processing & Analysis

IMPACT data cleaning minimum standards checklist will be followed[8]. Every day, the surveys are uploaded on the REACH/IMPACT Kobo-server and downloaded by the Database Officer (DO) at the end of data collection. The DO anonymizes and subsequently checks the dataset before it goes through to Field and Assessment Officers who will be conducting data checking and cleaning through log changes and deletions. The Assessment Officer will oversee and do the data cleaning templates for the Field Officers, who are in turn responsible for data checking and the supervision of field teams. The following protocols will be in place to ensure the quality of data collected:

- Daily data cleaning by Field Officers, who identify outliers, anomalies, and logical inconsistencies, and give regular feedback to enumerators through daily briefings and ad-hoc training. Data points that cannot be resolved through follow-ups with the

[8] IMPACT_Memo_Data-Cleaning-Min-Standards-Checklist_28012020-1.pdf (reachresourcecentre.info)

enumerators or respondents will be deleted. If survey records have more than three outliers that cannot be checked, the entire record is deleted from the dataset. Also, if the duration of the survey is unusually long or short and the enumerators cannot provide a concise and clear justification, the entire survey will be deleted.

- In parallel, daily data cleaning will be conducted by the Assessment Officer, who reviews data cleaning conducted by Field Officers and provides additional feedback to the data collection teams in regular communication with the Senior Assessment Officer regarding briefings, and training.
- One Key findings brief, one clean dataset will be produced and shared with the IPC team, OCHA and partners across Somalia.

Data Analysis and Aggregation

The data collected is aggregated at the following levels: (1) Settlement, (2) District.

Given that more than one quantitative survey will be collected for a given settlement, data from key informants reporting on the same settlement is aggregated to the settlement and reported at the district level. I using an R script which employs the following logic to calculate settlement-level responses:

- Single response questions: Most survey questions only allow a KI to select only one response option. For these questions, mode aggregation is used. All "I don't know" responses are excluded, and the most frequently reported response among KIs is taken for each settlement level answer.
- If multiple KIs from the same settlement give different responses such that no single option is dominant, the settlement-level result is recorded as “No consensus.”
- Multiple response questions: For questions that allow multiple selections, mode aggregation is also applied. "I don't know" responses are removed, and all other responses reported by the Kis are compiled and presented for the settlement.

If feasible, the assessment team may conduct further analysis using the geocoordinates of each settlement. This may include generating supplemental findings on climate and livelihoods, which can be triangulated with FAO SWALIM mapping and FEWS NET livelihood zones.

Outputs: The cleaned and aggregated dataset will inform the following outputs:

- Clean dataset.
- Formatted analysis.
- Key finding brief.

GIS and Database Officers are responsible for data aggregation and spatial verification. They review coverage and provide feedback to confirm whether all targeted settlements have been captured. One coverage map will be produced.

3.6 Limitations

As the assessment relies on interviews with snowballed KIs either through mobile phone interviews or face to face Area of Knowledge interviews, all findings are indicative, i.e., not statistically representative, of hard-to-reach areas in Somalia. And as these data collection methods rely on snowballing for accessible participants from snowballing, findings will reflect the experiences, perceptions, and limited knowledge of these accessible KIs.

Limitations of data collections by Phone Interview:

Respondents might be inclined to exhibit social desirability bias, where they tend to offer responses that are

seen as socially acceptable rather than honestly expressing their genuine opinions. This tendency arises because individuals may feel a social pressure to conform to what is deemed acceptable, leading them to modify their answers to align with societal expectations. This phenomenon can impact the accuracy of survey results, as participants may not fully disclose their authentic beliefs or attitudes, skewing the overall findings[9].

Limitations of data collection by AoK:

One significant drawback of AoK lies in its non-reliance on random sampling; instead, it employs purposive sampling methods that vary based on circumstances. Consequently, its findings are regarded as merely "indicative" rather than representative. its limitations, valuable insights emerge. Collectively, the results underscore the utility of AoK as a valuable tool for assessing specific conditions and needs to inform emergency prioritization and planning. This is particularly evident in the absence of viable alternatives for measuring needs remotely and rapidly or at a sufficiently high frequency and cost-effectively, especially across various sectors and indicators[10].

4. Key ethical considerations and related risks

The proposed research design meets / does not meet the following criteria:

The proposed research design…	***Yes/ No***	***Details if no (including mitigation)***
… Has been coordinated with relevant stakeholders to **avoid unnecessary duplication** of data collection efforts?	**Yes**	
… **Respects respondents, their rights and dignity** (*specifically by: seeking informed consent, designing length of survey/ discussion while being considerate of participants' time, ensuring accurate reporting of information provided*)?	**Yes**	
… Does not **expose data collectors to any risks as a direct result** of participation in data collection?	**Yes**	
… Does not **expose respondents / their communities to any risks as a direct result** of participation in data collection?	**Yes**	
… Does not involve **collecting information on specific topics which may be stressful and/ or re-traumatising** for research participants (both respondents and data collectors)?	**Yes**	
… Does not involve **data collection with minors** i.e. anyone less than 18 years old?	**Yes**	
… Does not involve **data collection with other vulnerable groups** e.g. persons with disabilities, victims/ survivors of protection incidents, etc.?	**Yes**	
… Follows IMPACT SOPs for management of **personally identifiable information**?	**Yes**	

[9] Measures of Personality and Social Psychological Attitudes | ScienceDirect

[10] REACH-AoK-Validation-Study-Summary-Report-October-2023-4.pdf (impact-initiatives.org)

5. Roles and responsibilities

Task Description	*Responsible*	*Accountable*	*Consulted*	*Informed*
Research design	HSM Focal point	HSM Focal point	IMPACT SOM Inter-Sectoral Unit (ISU) REACH IMPACT KEN-SOM, IMPACT KEN-SOM Deputy Country Coordinator, Access Working Group (AWG), Data unit, REACH SOM OCHA, Protection cluster Operations unit, HQ RDDU, HQ Emergencies Unit	
Supervising data collection	REACH SOM Field Officers (FOs), REACH SOM Senior Data Officer	REACH SOM Field Manager, REACH SOM Senior Data Officer	HSM Focal Point,	IMPACT KEN-SOM, IMPACT KEN-SOM Deputy
Data processing	REACH SOM FOs, REACH SOM Senior Data Officer	REACH SOM Field Manager, REACH SOM Senior Data Officer		IMPACT KEN-SOM and KEN-SOM Deputy
	HSM Focal point, REACH SOM GIS team and REACH SOM Data team	HSM Focal Point, REACH SOM Senior GIS Officer and REACH SOM Senior Data Officer	KEN-SOM Deputy, IMPACT HQ RDDU	IMPACT

Data analysis				KEN-SOM
Output production	HSM Focal point	HSM Focal Point	REACH SOM Data Unit, REACH SOM GIS Unit, IMPACT KEN-SOM Deputy IMPACT HQ Research and Reporting Unit (RRU)	IMPACT KEN-SOM and KEN-SOM Deputy Country Coordinator
Dissemination	HSM Focal point, ISU Research Manager		IMPACT KEN-SOM and KEN-SOM Deputy Country Coordinator	HQ RRU, AWG, OCHA and the Protection cluster
Monitoring & Evaluation	HSM Focal point	HSM Focal Point	KEN-SOM Deputy, REACH SOM Operations Unit, REACH SOM Data Unit, REACH SOM GIS Unit	IMPACT KEN-SOM and KEN-SOM Deputy, IMPACT HQ
Lessons learned	HSM Focal point,	HSM Focal Point	REACH SOM Operations Unit, REACH SOM Data Unit, REACH SOM GIS Unit	IMPACT KEN-SOM and KEN-SOM Deputy, IMPACT HQ

Responsible: *the person(s) who executes the task*

Accountable: *the person who validates the completion of the task and is accountable of the final output or milestone*

Consulted: *the person(s) who must be consulted when the task is implemented*

Informed: *the person(s) who need to be informed when the task is completed*

2. Data Analysis Plan