Research Methodology Note

Humanitarian Situation Monitoring (HSM)

SOM1901

Somalia

April 2026
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)*	01/03/2026 to 30/05/2026					
Research Timeframe *Add planned deadlines (for first cycle if more than 1)*	1. Pilot/ training: 24/03/2026- 26/03/2026		6. Preliminary presentation: N/A			
	2. Start collect data: 30/03/2026		7. Outputs sent for validation: 12/05/2026 (In-Country Review)			
	3. Data collected: 08/04/2026		8. Outputs published: • Clean dataset: 19/04/2026 • Formatted analysis: 19/04/2026 • Key finding brief (Trend analysis for January 2025 and April 2026): 15/05/2026			
	4. Data analysed: 20/04/2026		9. Final presentation: 31/05 /2026			
	5. Data sent for validation: 23/04/2026 (In-Country review and validation since it's a recuring research cycle))					
Number of assessments	X	Single assessment (one cycle)				
	□	Multi assessment (more than one cycle)				
Humanitarian milestones *Specify **what** will the assessment inform and*	**Milestone**		**Deadline (can be tentative)**			
	□	Donor plan/strategy	_ _/_ _/_ _ _ _			
	□	Inter-cluster plan/strategy	_ _/_ _/_ _ _ _			
	X	Cluster plan/strategy - Education, Shelter, Protection, and WASH cluster	31/05/2026			
	□	NGO platform plan/strategy	_ _/_ _/_ _ _ _			

when *e.g. The shelter cluster will use this data to draft its Revised Flash Appeal;*	□	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, while supporting ongoing monitoring of humanitarian conditions. 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	• Somalia 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), 2026 • 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 #): **1905** □ 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		
Expected output type(s)	□	Situation overview #: _ _	□	Report #: _ _	□	Profile #: _ _
	□	Presentation (Preliminary findings) #: N/A	□	Presentation (Final) #: -1 Key findings brief (Trend analysis - January 2026 and April 2026) findings will be presented to the inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and/or Access Working Group and IPC. -Protection Cluster	□	Factsheet #: (One) 1 Key findings brief (Trend analysis - January 2026 and April 2026)
	□	Interactive dashboard #: N/A	□	Webmap #: N/A	□	Map #: 1 coverage map (further maps pending findings and capacity)

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

2. Rationale

2.1 Background

Somalia continues to face a protracted and complex humanitarian crisis driven by recurrent climate shocks, protracted conflict, economic fragility, and chronic underfunding of humanitarian operations.[1] Successive seasons of erratic and below-average rainfall, interspersed with episodes of intense flooding linked to El Niño variability, have deepened vulnerabilities across rural and urban communities.[2][3] According to the latest analysis by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), millions of people remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse, with 6.5 million people in Somalia estimated to be facing high levels of acute insecurity- double the population is classified in IPC Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse) in August 2025. More than 2 million people in IPC AFI Phase 4 (Emergency). Acute malnutrition levels remain alarmingly high.[4] As of early 2026, an estimated 1.84 million children aged 6-59 months are expected to suffer acute malnutrition, including hundreds of thousands likely to suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM).[5]

Climate-related shocks continue to severely undermine livelihoods. Below average and poorly distributed Deyr rains in late 2025 affected crop performance in several agropastoral zones, while Gu season flooding along the Shabelle and Juba river basins caused destruction of crops and irrigation infrastructure.[6] Regions such as Hiran, Middle Shabelle, and Middle Juba remain highly vulnerable to both riverine and flash flooding, leading to displacement and market disruptions.[7] Livestock productivity in northern and central pastoral areas has only partially recovered, with herd sizes remaining below pre-drought levels.

Conflict and insecurity remain key drivers of humanitarian need, restricting trade routes, limiting livelihood activities, and constraining humanitarian access in parts of South-Central Somalia. Urban centers hosting large numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs)—including Baidoa, Mogadishu, and Kismayo—face mounting pressure on services and employment opportunities[8].

Internal displacement remains widespread. Since mid-2025 and into early 2026, hundreds of thousands of people have experienced displacement due to flooding, conflict, and drought-related livelihood loss.[9] Many IDPs

[1] OCHA. (2026, January). Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP).
[2] MSF. (2025, March). Drought and funding gaps deepen Somalia' malnutrition crisis.
[3] FEWS NET. (2026). Famine Early Warning System Network.
[4] IPC. (2026, February). Somali, Acute Food Insecurity Situation.https://www.ipcinfo.org/
[5] IPC. (2026, February). Somalia Acute Malnutrition Situation November 2025 to January 2026 and Projection for February to March 2026 and for April to June 2026.
[6] FAO. (2026, February). Somalia Food and Humanitarian Situation worsening.
[7] FAO. (2023, October). Fighting a rare "Super El Nino" in Somalia.https://www.fao.org/giews
[8] UNICEF. (2025). Somalia Humanitarian Situation Report No. 12.
[9] UNHCR. (2026). Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network (PSMN).

reside in informal settlements with limited access to basic services, increasing exposure to disease outbreaks.[10] Macroeconomic pressures, including high food prices and reduced household purchasing power, continue to erode coping capacities. Although global commodity prices have stabilized compared to peak levels in previous years, staple food prices remain above the five-year average in many markets.[11]

Funding shortfalls persist as a major constraint to effective response. Humanitarian response plans for Somalia remain significantly underfunded, limiting the scale and continuity of life-saving interventions.[12] Reduced rations and pipeline breaks have heightened the risk of further deterioration among vulnerable populations.

Against this backdrop, the goal of the assessment is to draw sustained attention to the severity of needs in hard-to-reach districts and to generate robust, up-to-date evidence to support prioritization and informed decision-making. While various humanitarian actors conduct sector-specific assessments, a regular multi-sectoral overview of hard-to-reach areas remains limited.[13]

2.2 Intended impact

The upcoming round of the hard-to-reach (H2R) assessment is scheduled for April 2026, during the Jilal season, the driest and coolest period of the year, following the post-Gu season.[14] Data collection during this seasonal window is critical to capture peak dry-season vulnerabilities and evolving humanitarian conditions in districts with limited physical access. Findings from this round will contribute to the subsequent Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, supporting a more comprehensive understanding of emergency needs related to Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL), Health, and WASH. Additionally, the findings will be shared with humanitarian actors in Somalia including clusters, donors, and operational partners to support evidence-based response planning across sectors, including Protection, Education, Shelter, and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM).

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, International Non-Governmental Organizations (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[15]. 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

[10] OCHA. (2026, p-26). Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan.
[11] FEWS NET. (2026, February). Somalia Latest food security analysis. https://fews.net/east-africa/somalia
[12] OCHA. (2025 April). Monthly Humanitarian Update.
[13] OCHA. (2026, January 26). Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP)https://somalia.un.org/en/308877-2026-humanitarian-needs-and-response-plan-hnrp
[14] FAO. (2026, February 6). Somalia Gu 2026 Climate Outlook.
[15] REACH-AoK-Validation-Study-Summary-Report-October-2023-4.pdf

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 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)[16].

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
Hiran	Hirshabelle	Bulo Burto
		Jalalaqsi
		Belet Weyne
Galgadud	Galmudug	Ceel Buur
		Ceel Dheer
		Ceel Waaq
		Dhuusamarreeb
		Hobyo
		Xarardheere
Gedo	Jubaland	Baardheere
		Luuq

[16] OCHA. (2026, January 11). Somalia Access Severity Overview (as of 2 December 2025)https://fsnau.org/downloads/Somalia-2023-Post-Gu-IPC-AFI-and-IPC-AMN-Findings-and-Recommendations-18-Sep-2023.pdf

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
		Cadale
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:

- https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-2025-drought-emergency-situation-report-no-3Food 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 Needs Response Plan (HNRP), 2026 - Somalia
- Somalia World Food Program Annual Country report
- Somalia Livelihood Zones - Map
- IOM DTM (Displacement Tracking Matrix)
- OCHA Somalia 2025 drought emergency Situation Report
- 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 matches 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 (15% of the total settlements)	Target number of interviews (Minimum of 3 interviews per settlement)
Adan Yabaal	23	3	10
Afgooye	314	47	141
Afmadow	79	12	36
Baardheere	132	20	59
Badhaadhe	41	6	18
Balcad	157	24	71
Baraawe	31	5	14
Belet Weyne	167	25	75
Bu'aale	53	8	24
Bulo Burto	156	23	70
Buuhoodle	47	7	21
Buur Hakaba	597	90	269
Cadale	43	6	19
Caluula	60	9	27
Ceel Barde	26	4	12
Ceel Buur	48	7	22
Ceel Dheer	32	5	14
Ceel Waaq	41	6	18

Dhuusamarreeb	56	8	25
Diinsoor	116	17	52
Hobyo	117	18	53
Jalalaqsi	72	11	32
Jamaame	82	12	37
Jilib	79	12	36
Kismaayo	41	6	18
Kurtunwaarey	46	7	21
Laas Caanood	38	6	17
Laasqoray	44	7	20
Luuq	136	20	61
Qandala	68	10	31
Qansax Dheere	77	12	35
Qoryooley	202	30	91
Rab Dhuure	83	12	37
Saakow	39	6	18
Sablaale	32	5	14
Tayeeglow	120	18	54
Waajid	39	6	18
Wanla Weyn	453	68	204
Xarardheere	22	3	10
Xudun	29	4	13
Xudur	196	29	88
	4234	**634**	**1905**

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

Base	Total number of KIs
Mogadishu	400
Baidoa	1067
Kisimayo	308
Galkacyo	130

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 reported 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[17]. 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 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 (Trend analysis – January 2026 and April 2026), 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. 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.

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

- Key finding brief (Trend analysis -January 2026 and April 2026).

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[18].

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[19].

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**	

[18] Science Direct. (1991). Measures of Personality and Social Psychological Attitudes.https://www.sciencedirect.com/book/9780125902410/measures-of-personality-and-social-psychological-attitudes

[19] REACH, (2023, September). The Area of Knowledge (AoK) method for Humanitarian Situation Monitoring.https://repository.impact-initiatives.org/document/reach/265a2d83/REACH-AoK-Validation-Study-Summary-Report-October-2023-4.pdf

… 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**	

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 Representative. Access Working Group (AWG), Data unit, REACH SOM OCHA, Protection cluster Operations unit, HQ Research System Unit (RSU) & Research Quality Assurance (RQA), 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			IMPACT KEN-SOM and KEN-SOM Deputy Country Representative (DCR)

		REACH SOM Senior Field Manager, REACH SOM Senior Data Officer		
	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 RSU, RQA	IMPACT KEN-SOM
Data analysis			REACH SOM Data Unit, REACH SOM GIS Unit, IMPACT KEN- SOM Deputy Country Representative IMPACT HQ	IMPACT
Output production	HSM Focal point	HSM Focal Point	Research and Research Quality Assurance (RQA)	KEN-SOM and KEN-SOM Deputy Country Representative
Dissemination	HSM Focal point, ISU Research Manager		IMPACT KEN- SOM and KEN-SOM Deputy Country Representative	HQ RSA, AWG, OCHA and the Protection cluster
			KEN-SOM Deputy, REACH SOM Operations Unit, REACH SOM Data Unit, REACH SOM	

Monitoring & Evaluation		HSM Focal Point	GIS Unit	
	HSM Focal point			IMPACT
				KEN-SOM and KEN-SOM Deputy, IMPACT HQ
			REACH SOM Operations Unit, REACH SOM Data Unit, REACH SOM GIS Unit	
	HSM Focal point,			IMPACT
Lessons learned		HSM Focal Point		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