

## CONTEXT

The humanitarian situation in Somalia has been worsened by a recent double climate disaster - drought in two thirds of the country and flooding in other areas - and the impact of political tensions, COVID-19 and the worst desert locust infestation in years.<sup>1</sup> Based on preliminary estimates from the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), the 2021 gu cereal harvest in July will be at least 30-40 percent below the long-term average (1995-2020), which will diminish a key source of food and income for farmers and drive an increase in local staple food prices in both rural and urban areas.<sup>2</sup> In addition to weather shocks, food availability and access are further constrained by conflict in southern and central Somalia, uncertainty over the parliamentary and presidential elections, and rising staple cereal prices linked to low domestic production and high global food prices.<sup>3</sup> Simultaneously, these regions host the largest proportion of internally displaced persons (IDPs); an estimated 1.4 million of the approximately 2.6 million IDPs in Somalia reside in this part of the country.<sup>4</sup> The majority of IDPs settle in camps located around large urban centres. Security and logistical constraints limit the data available on population needs in these territories.

To help address these critical information gaps and to assist humanitarian planning in Somalia, REACH monitors needs in southern and central Somalia through the assessment of hard-to-reach areas. This assessment provides monthly data and analysis on the humanitarian situation in the settlements located in the **7 target regions of Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Middle Shabelle, Lower Shabelle, Middle Juba and Lower Juba**.

## METHODOLOGY

The Hard-to-Reach Areas assessment uses an Area of Knowledge (AoK) methodology, whereby the settlements are assessed by interviewing key informants (KIs) who have recently been displaced from the target settlements to IDP camps around Baidoa and Mogadishu.

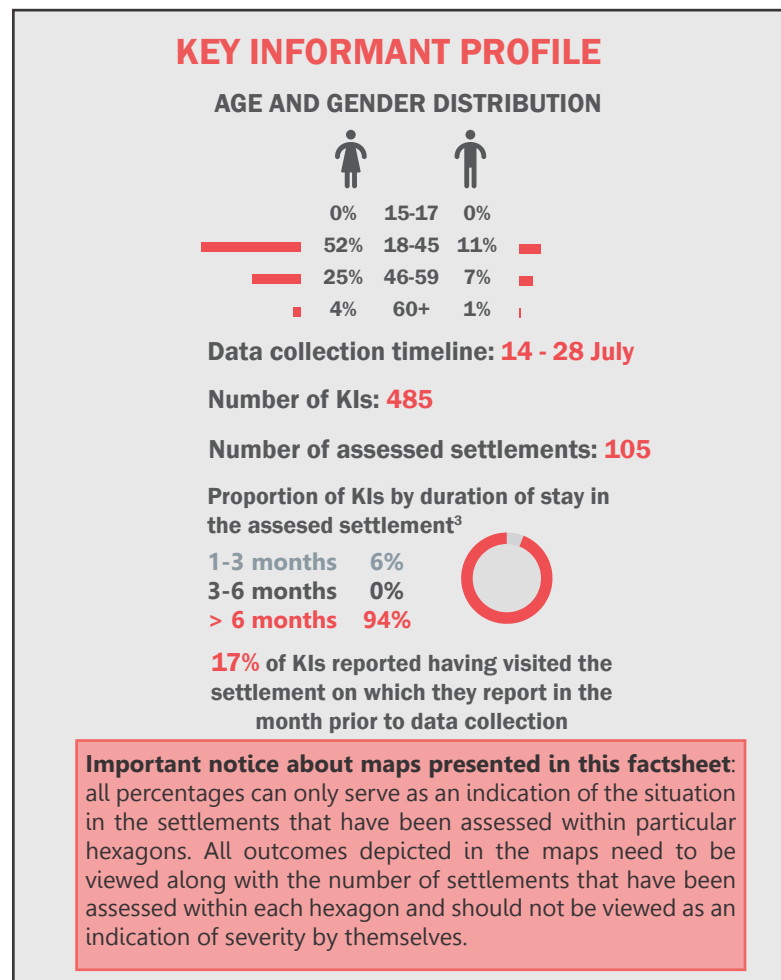
The KIs must meet the selection criteria of either being displaced from their previous settlement less than one month prior to data collection, or having visited their previous settlement in the month prior to the data collection. Additionally, KIs are selected if they have stayed in the settlement on which they report for longer than one month. The minimum number of interviews required to report on each settlement is two. Responses of KIs are aggregated to the settlement level. For more details on this, see the methodology section on p. 9. For all data presented in this factsheet, the recall period is one month preceding data collection.

Recognizing the risk of COVID-19 for vulnerable populations in Somalia, REACH, following consultations with the cluster partners, introduced indicators to improve humanitarians' understanding of additional challenges that people from the assessed settlements might face as a result of the pandemic. These indicators, marked with **C19**, might help to estimate the potential impact of the pandemic, such as its impact on the level of access to information about the virus, potential barriers to services induced by the pandemic, as well as related risk perceptions. Importantly, observed changes of these variables might occur due to the cumulative effect of several co-existing factors that are not limited to or driven by health threats. **C19** indicators have to be viewed in consideration of the general limitations of the AoK methodology.

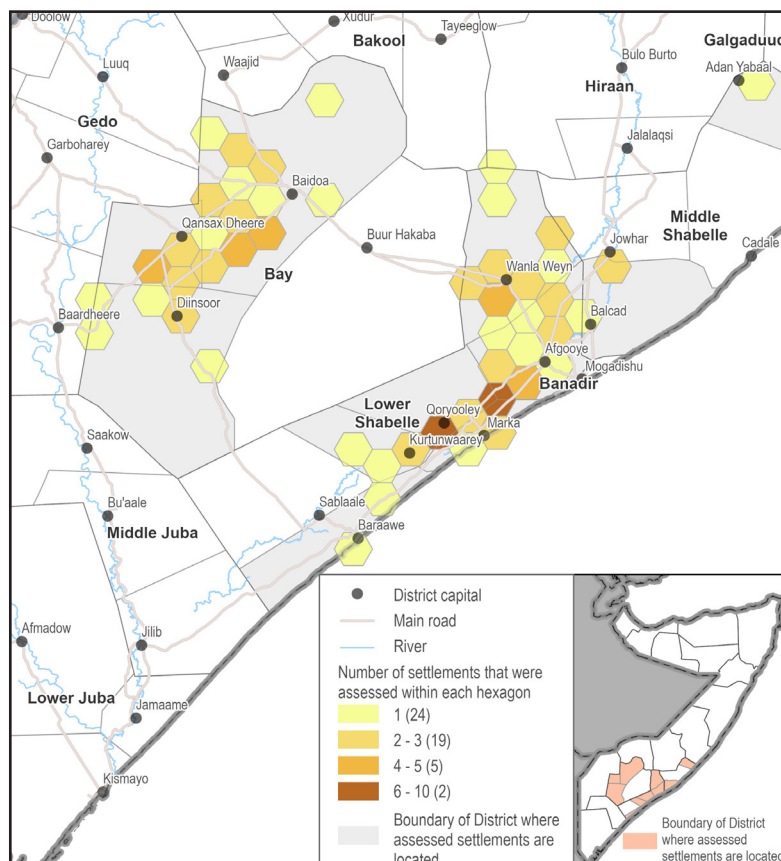
Findings are not representative; rather, they should be considered as **indicative** of the situation in assessed settlements. For more information on the aggregation of data, please see the dedicated information box on p.9. Unless specified otherwise, the findings in this factsheet are presented as a percentage of aggregated settlement-level responses.

1. [Somalia humanitarian bulletin - June 2021](#)

2. [Somalia Food security outlook - June 2021 to January 2022](#)



## COVERAGE MAP



3. [Below-average gu harvest and other shocks lead to IPC Phase 3 outcomes July 2021](#)

4. [UNHCR Operational Portal. Horn of Africa Somalia Situation](#)

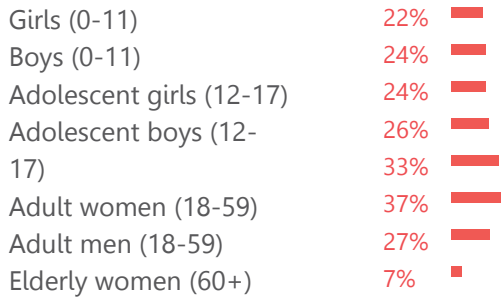
# → DISPLACEMENT

July 2021  
Somalia

**22%** of KIs reported having left behind members of their household in the settlement where they stayed prior to displacement<sup>5</sup>

**20%** of those KIs reported that people with disabilities were among their household members who were left behind<sup>5</sup>

**Household members, by gender and age, reported as left behind by KIs<sup>5,6</sup>**



**% of assessed settlements where KIs reported presence of IDPs<sup>7</sup>**

18%	Yes
78%	No
3%	No consensus

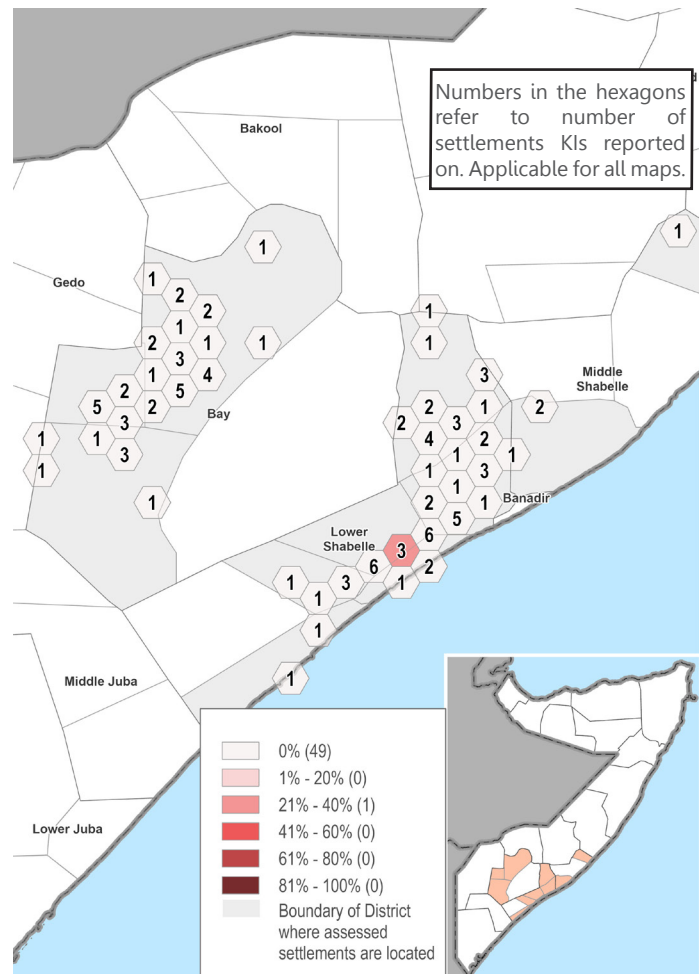
**Reported ratio of IDPs to host community in assessed settlements where displaced people were reported<sup>8</sup>**



**Most commonly reported primary reason for population leaving the settlement of origin, by % of assessed settlements**



**% of assessed settlements where conflict was the most commonly reported primary reason for population leaving the settlement of origin**



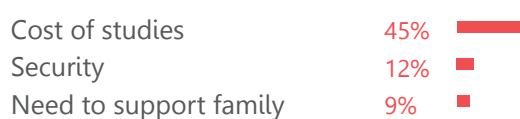
# EDUCATION

Children from **97%** of settlements reportedly had access to education in the month preceding data collection

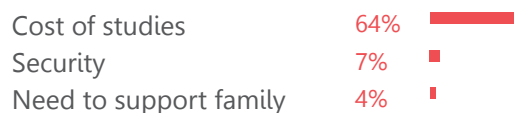
**Most commonly reported types of education services that children from the assessed settlements were able to access<sup>6</sup>**



**Most commonly reported barriers to access education for girls from the assessed settlements<sup>9</sup>**



**Most commonly reported barriers to access education for boys from the assessed settlements<sup>10</sup>**



**Reported time to reach education facilities by foot, for assessed settlements in which most children reportedly had access to education services**

Less than 30 minutes	30-60 minutes	1-3 hours	More than 3 hours	No consensus
49%	36%	4%	0%	11%

5. The data is presented as the percentage of total KI responses.

6. The respondents could choose more than one option, therefore the sum of responses may exceed 100%.

7. Unless specified otherwise, the percentages throughout the factsheet are presented for

8. For the 25% of settlements where presence of IDPs was reported.

9. No barriers were reported in 0% of settlements, also there was no consensus in 29% of the settlements.

10. No barriers were reported in 0% of settlements, also there was no consensus in



People in **88%** of assessed settlements reportedly had access to a functional market in the month preceding data collection<sup>11</sup>

Reported walking time to access a functional market, by % of assessed settlements where access was reported

Less than 30 minutes	30-60 minutes	60 minutes to half a day	Half a day	More than half a day	No consensus
50%	17%	26%	0%	0%	7%

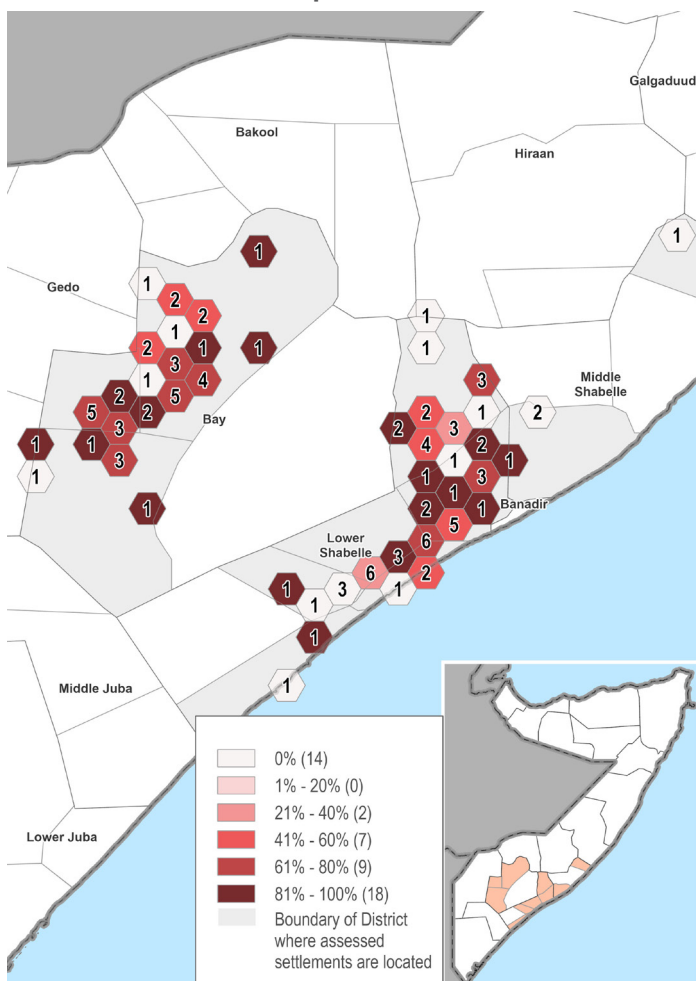
**C19** Reported change of price for food compared to the previous month, by % of assessed settlements

Prices increased	82%
Prices did not change	10%
No consensus	6%

Most commonly reported sources of food, by % of assessed settlements<sup>6</sup>

Own production <sup>12</sup>	78%
Bought with cash	15%
No consensus	1%

% of assessed settlements where access to food had reportedly deteriorated in the month prior to data collection



KIs from **37%** of assessed settlements reported people skipping two or more meals per day to cope with a lack of food

Most commonly reported reasons why people were not able to access enough food, by % of assessed settlements where people reportedly skipped two or more meals a day<sup>6</sup>

Security	62%
Natural causes	45%
No land	46%

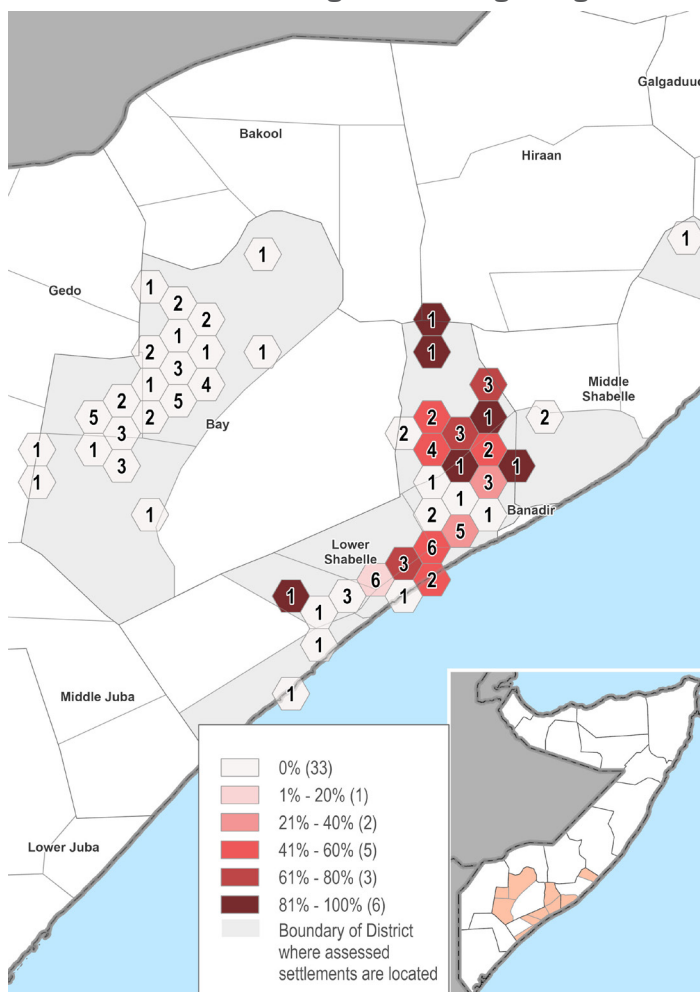
Most commonly reported strategies used to cope with lack of food in the settlement, by % of assessed settlements<sup>6</sup>

Limit portion sizes	69%
Borrow food from others	68%
Reduce portion sizes	42%

Most commonly reported livelihood sources, by % of assessed settlements<sup>6</sup>

Farming	83%
Livestock production	44%
Daily wage labour	43%

% of assessed settlements where KIs reported that security reasons are a main challenge in accessing enough food



11. KIs from 55% of assessed settlements reported access to a functional market at all times, 32% restricted access, and for 10% there was no consensus.

12. Own production includes cultivation and livestock production.

People in **48%** of assessed settlements reportedly had no access to any health services<sup>13</sup>

Reported types of health services available from the assessed settlements where access was reported<sup>6</sup>

Drugstore	95%	<div style="width: 95%;"></div>
Clinic	5%	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>

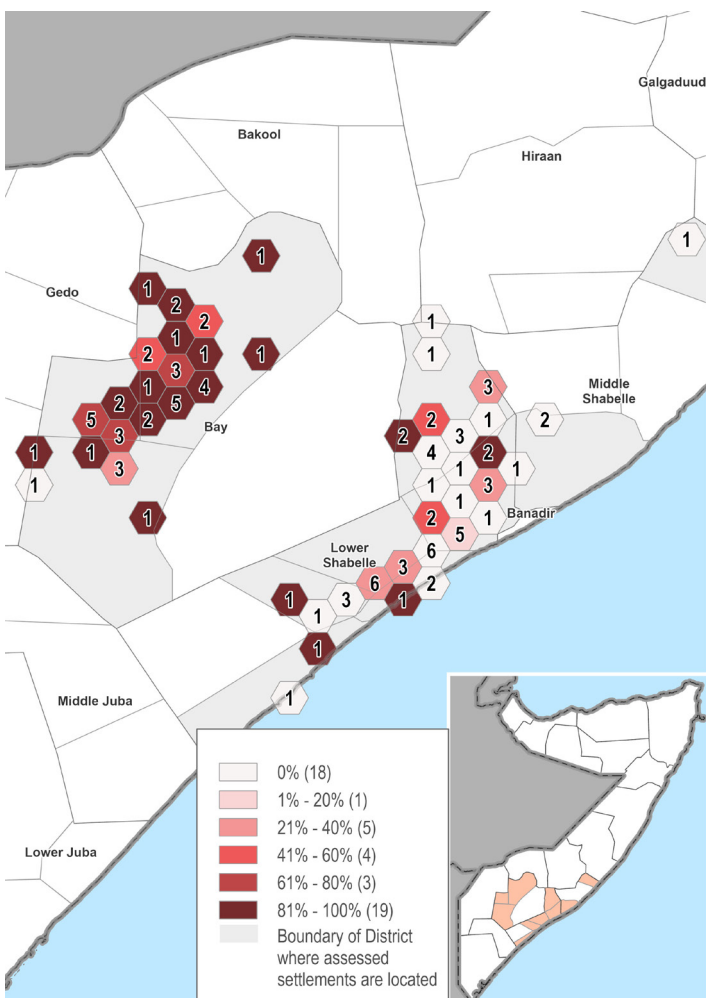
Most commonly reported barriers for accessing healthcare, by % of assessed settlements<sup>6</sup>

Cost of services	70%	<div style="width: 70%;"></div>
Distance	49%	<div style="width: 49%;"></div>
Absence of qualified personnel	29%	<div style="width: 29%;"></div>

Population groups most commonly reported as unable to access health services when needed, by % of assessed settlement where access was reported<sup>6</sup>

Women over 60	33%	<div style="width: 33%;"></div>
Men over 60	33%	<div style="width: 33%;"></div>

% of assessed settlements where KIs reported no access to any type of health services



13. Access to any kind of health services was reported by KIs from 42% of assessed settlements, and for 6% there was no consensus.

14. Healthcare workers include: community health worker, nurse, doctor or midwife.

15. Basic health services include examination, first aid and health education.

**C19** Most commonly reported measures taken by people from the assessed communities to protect themselves from COVID-19<sup>6</sup>

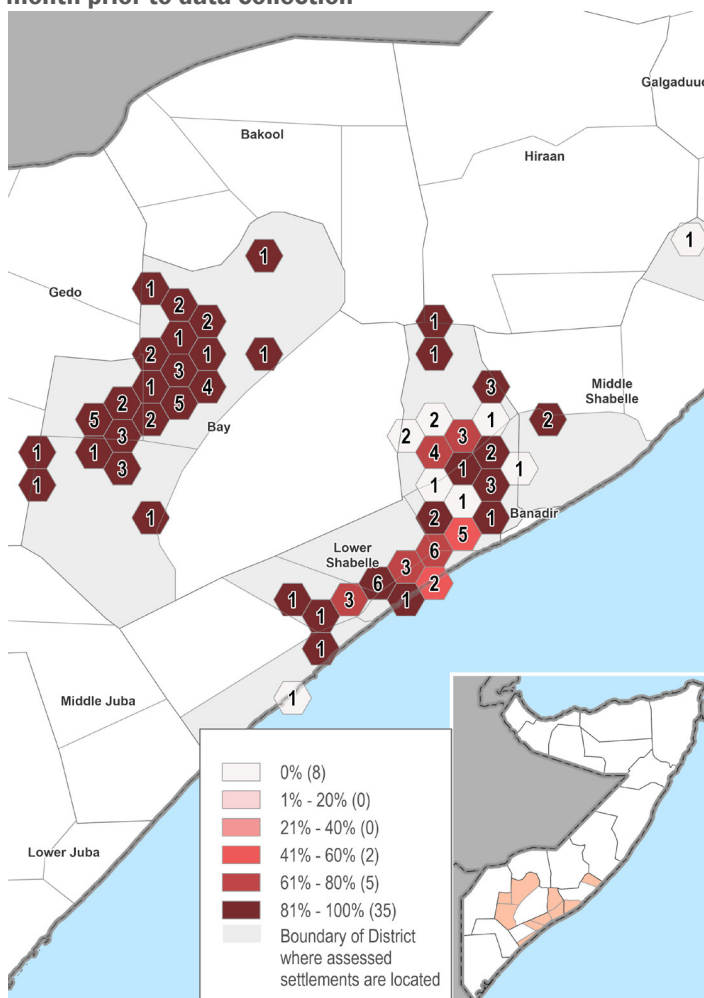
Wash hands with water	47%	<div style="width: 47%;"></div>
Pray	34%	<div style="width: 34%;"></div>
Wash hands with water and soap	24%	<div style="width: 24%;"></div>

**C19** In **13%** of assessed settlements, health workers reportedly provided basic health services within the settlement in the month prior to data collection<sup>14 15 16 17</sup>

**C19** For these settlements, the most commonly reported frequency of healthcare workers providing health services

Once a week	50%	<div style="width: 50%;"></div>
Once a month	36%	<div style="width: 36%;"></div>
2 - 3 times a month	14%	<div style="width: 14%;"></div>

% of assessed settlements where KIs reported that there had not been any health workers providing basic services in the month prior to data collection<sup>14 15</sup>



16. The health workers were not necessarily based in the assessed settlements.

17. KIs reported that health workers were not providing services in 81% of assessed settlements, and for 5% there was no consensus.

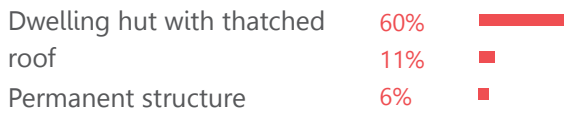




## SHELTER

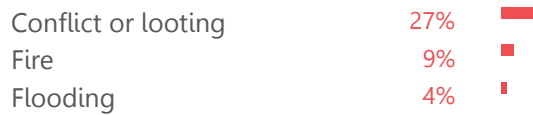
July 2021  
Somalia

### Most commonly reported shelter types, by % of assessed settlements

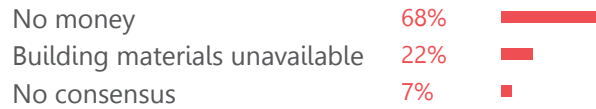


KIs from **39%** of assessed settlements reported that shelters had been destroyed or seriously damaged in the month prior to data collection<sup>18</sup>

### For those settlements, the reported reasons why shelters were destroyed or seriously damaged were



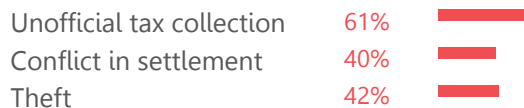
In **43%** of settlements where shelter damage had been reported, KIs reported that shelters had not yet been rebuilt. The most commonly reported reasons why were:



## PROTECTION

KIs from **72%** of assessed settlements reported at least one protection incident had taken place in the month prior to data collection<sup>19</sup>

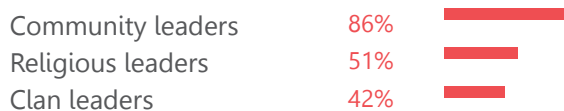
### In those settlements, the most commonly reported types of protection incidents were<sup>6</sup>



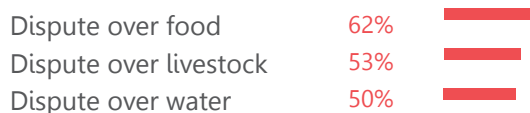
### Most commonly reported location of protection incidents, by % of assessed settlements where KIs reported any protection incidents<sup>6</sup>



### Groups most commonly reported as mediators in the event of conflict, by % of assessed settlements where protection incidents were reported<sup>6</sup>



In the **89%** of assessed settlements where KIs reported disputes within the settlement, the following causes were most commonly mentioned<sup>6 20</sup>



People in **78%** of assessed settlements where KIs reported that people could not move around safely during the day (**32%**) reportedly relied on own production as the main source of food

18. KIs in 49% of assessed settlements reported that no shelters were destroyed and for 8% there was no consensus.

19. No protection incidents were reported by KIs from 19% of assessed settlements, for 3% there was no consensus.

20. No disputes were reported by KIs from 7% of assessed settlements, and for 4% there was no consensus.

% of assessed settlements where KIs reported that people were able to leave and return safely



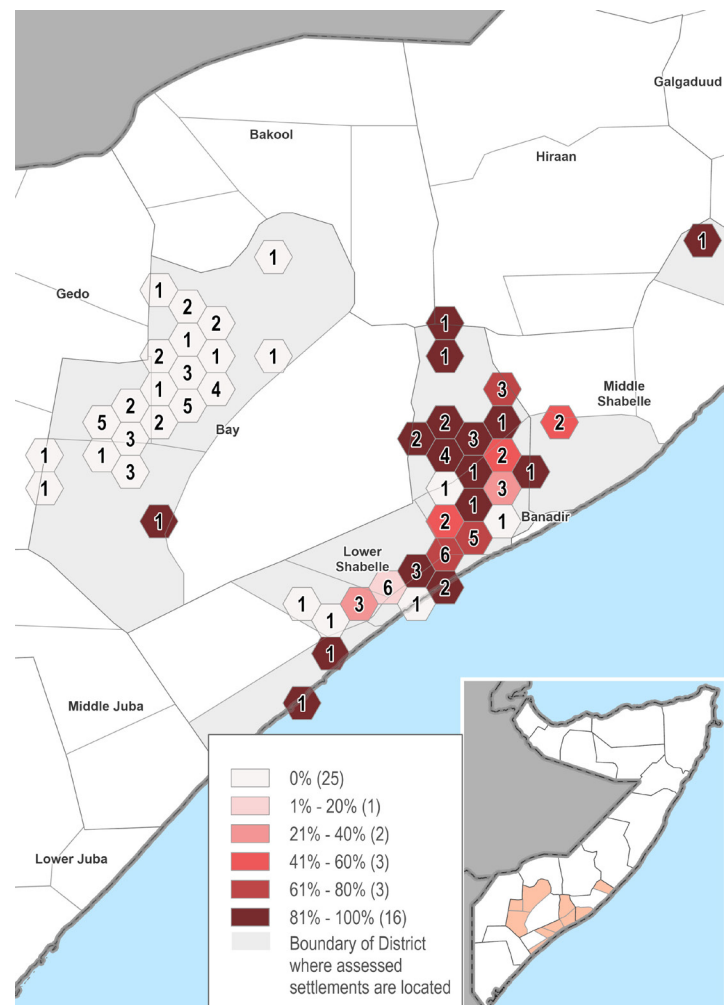
46% No  
50% Yes  
4% No consensus

% of assessed settlements where KIs reported that people could not move around the settlement safely during the day



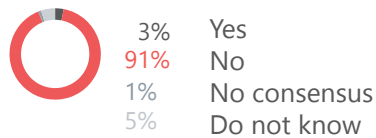
40% Unsafe movement  
56% Safe movement  
4% No consensus

% of assessed settlements where KIs reported that people were not able to move safely around the settlement during the day

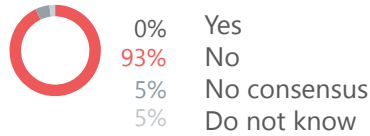




% of assessed settlements where KIs reported that children had gone missing in the month preceding data collection



% of assessed settlements where KIs reported the presence of unaccompanied children in the month preceding data collection

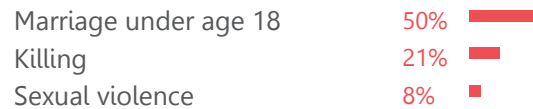


In 2 of the 3 settlements with reported presence of unaccompanied children, KIs reported that most unaccompanied children were living in a house

KIs in 77% of assessed settlements reported that no kind of special services for children were available<sup>21 22</sup>

KIs from 52% of assessed settlements reported protection incidents had happened to women the month prior data collection<sup>23</sup>

The most commonly reported types of protection incidents that happened to women were<sup>6</sup>

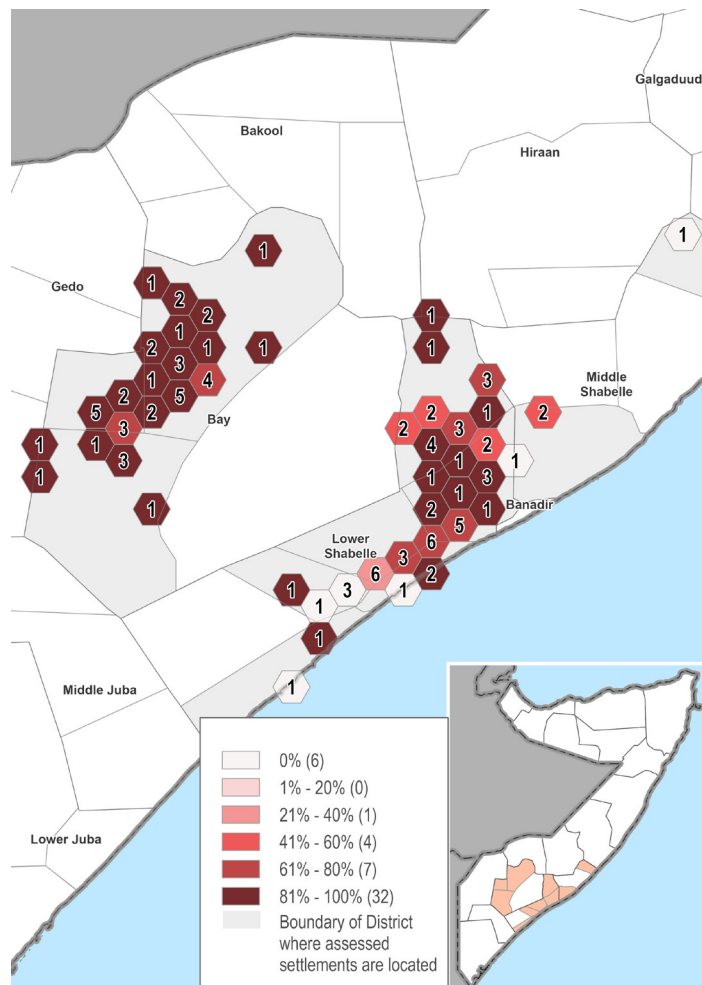


Places that women from the assessed settlements were reportedly avoiding for safety or security reasons<sup>6</sup>

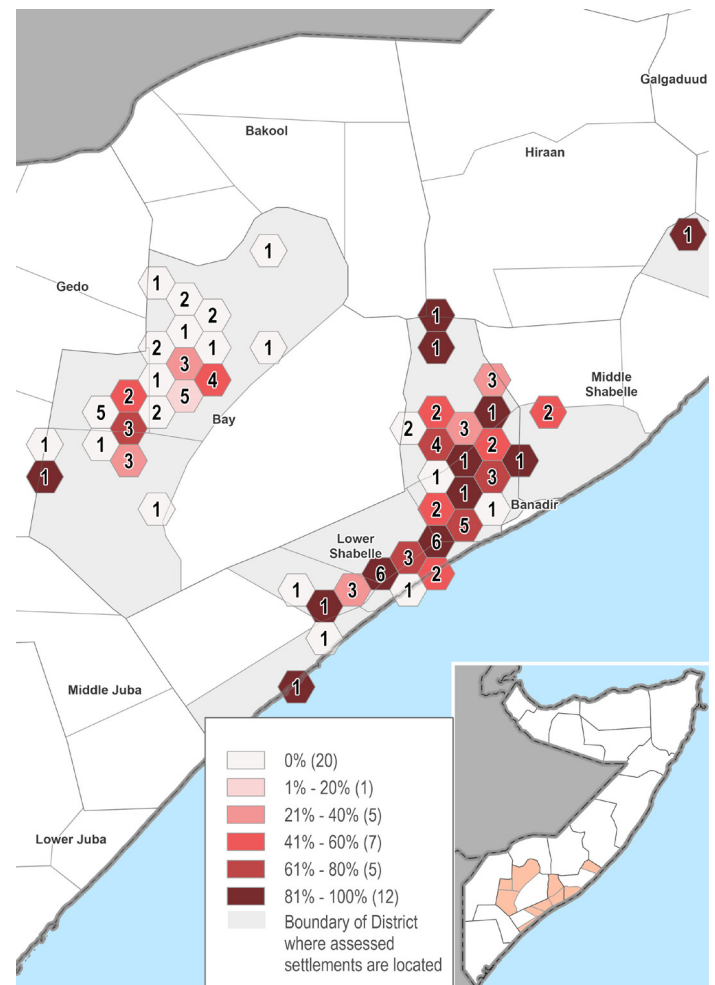


KIs in 77% of assessed settlements reported that protection services were not available to women from the settlement<sup>24 25</sup>

% of assessed settlements where special services for children were reportedly not available<sup>23</sup>



% of assessed settlements where protection incidents involving women had reportedly taken place in the month prior to data collection



21. KIs from 22% of settlements were not aware of availability of services and for 4% of settlements there was no consensus.

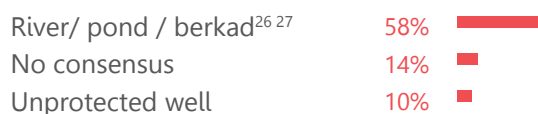
22. Services for children include: alternative care, psychosocial support, social workers, family tracing and referral services.

23. No protection incidents that happened to women were reported by KIs from 40% of assessed settlements, and for 14% there was no consensus.

24. KIs from 33% of assessed settlements reported that protection services for women were available and for 13% of assessed settlements there was no consensus.

25. Protection services for women include: psychosocial support, treatment of rape survivors, shelters and treatment for victims of GBV, legal support.

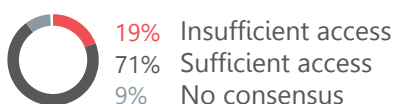
## Most commonly reported source of water for drinking and cooking, by % of assessed settlements



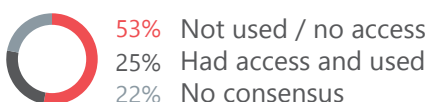
## Average reported time of fetching water, including walking, waiting and return, by % assessed settlements

Less than 30 minutes	30-60 minutes	60 minutes	Half a day	More than half a day	No consensus
27%	32%	0%	2%	27%	12%

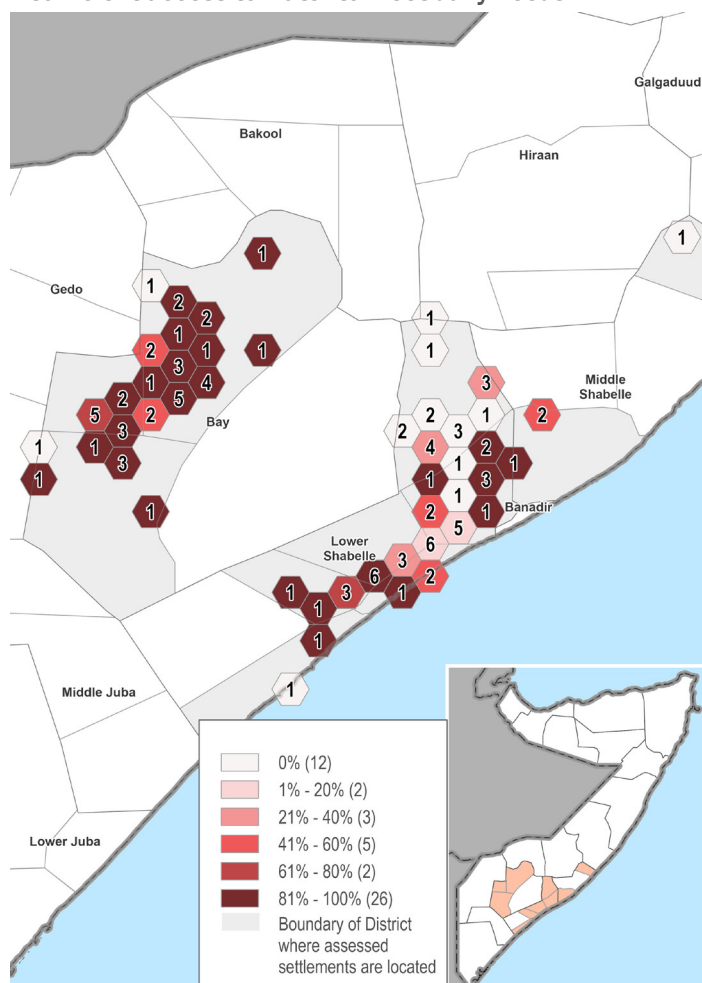
## % of assessed settlements where people reportedly had insufficient access to water in the month preceding data collection



## C19 % of assessed settlements where people reportedly did not use, and had no access to, soap and water for hand washing

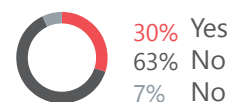


## % of assessed settlements where people reportedly had insufficient access to water to meet daily needs

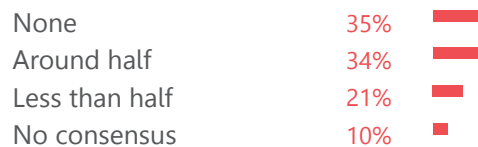


26. River, pond, berkad and unprotected well belong to unimproved water sources.

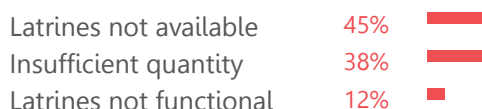
## % of assessed settlements where water for drinking and cooking was reportedly available during the dry and rainy seasons



## Estimated proportion of the population reportedly using latrines, by % of assessed settlements



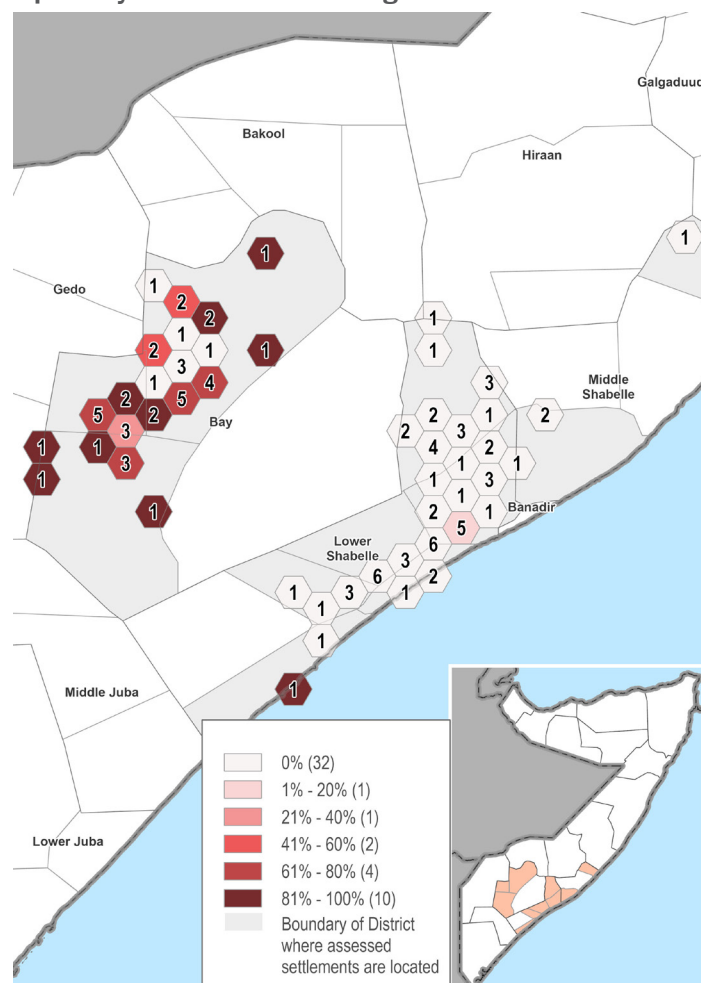
## Most commonly reported barriers to using latrines, for % of assessed settlements where half or less of the population was estimated to use latrines



## Most commonly reported strategy of disposing waste, by % of assessed settlements



## % of assessed settlements where fetching water reportedly takes one hour or longer



27. Berkad is a traditional open water storage.

**C19** People in **18%** of assessed settlements had reportedly been receiving some information about COVID-19 in the month preceding data collection<sup>28 29</sup>

**C19** In those settlements where people had reportedly been receiving information about COVID-19, the most commonly reported information providers were<sup>6</sup>

Mobile network operator	77%	
Family or friends	46%	
Community leaders	32%	
Local leaders	26%	
Media, TV	25%	

**Most commonly reported sources of general information, by % of assessed settlements<sup>6</sup>**

Radio	69%	
Phone calls	59%	
Face-to-face conversations	50%	

**Most commonly reported providers of information to people, by % of assessed settlements**

Family or friends	82%	
Community religious leaders	10%	
No consensus	8%	

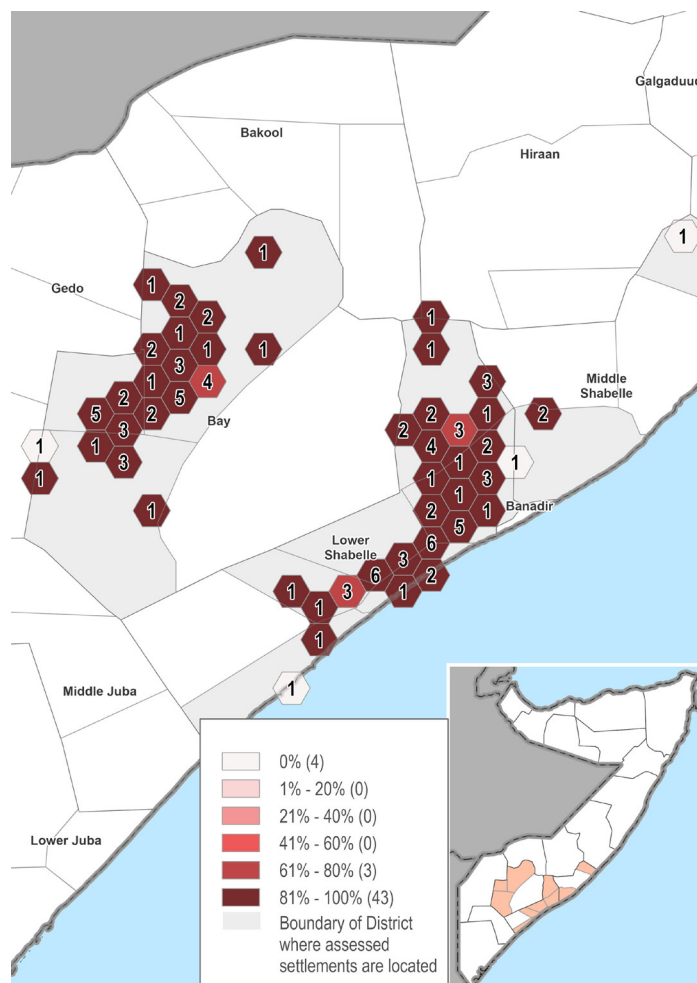
**Most commonly reported main radio stations listened to by the population, by % of assessed settlements<sup>6</sup>**

BBC Somalia	78%	
Voice of America	37%	
Radio Shabelle	9%	

**Most commonly reported barriers to accessing information, by % of assessed settlements<sup>6</sup>**

Lack of electricity	93%	
Lack of mobile signal	54%	
Lack of radio signal	41%	

% of assessed settlements where people were reportedly not able to access general information due to the lack of electricity



## ACCESS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

% of assessed settlements where people were reportedly receiving information about available humanitarian assistance



68%	No
14%	Yes
13%	No consensus
5%	Do not know

% of assessed settlements where people were reportedly receiving humanitarian assistance



95%	No
1%	Yes
2%	No consensus
3%	Do not know

% of assessed settlements where KIs reported a main or a secondary road to the settlement



93%	Yes
1%	No
6%	No consensus

28. The assessment does not include the questions that allow to evaluate the quality of information that is received by the population.

29. KIs from 77% of settlements reported that people had not been receiving information and for 4% of assessed settlements there was no consensus.





The assessment uses two main types of aggregation for the analysis:

**KI level:** these are indicators that are presented as a proportion of interviewed KIs and are reflective of the experience of particular households. KI level indicators are indicative of broad trends and therefore cannot be used to draw conclusions at the settlement level. This type of indicators is marked accordingly and clarification is provided in the footnotes.

**Settlement level:** most indicators presented in this factsheet use settlement level aggregation, unless specified otherwise. Mode aggregation is used, whereby “I don’t know” responses are dropped and then the most commonly reported response is taken for each settlement. Should several KIs from the same settlement provide different responses to the same question, the result is reported as “No consensus”.

Unless specified otherwise, the indicators used throughout the factsheet are aggregated to the settlement level. Aggregation to the hexagon level is used for the maps only and uses settlement level responses for further aggregation. Each hexagon contains a minimum of three settlements (assessed and not assessed). In cases of “No answer” among settlement-level responses, such settlements are dropped from the aggregation to the hexagon level and therefore not reflected in the percentages presented in the maps. In cases when all settlements within the hexagon are “No answer”, these settlements are not dropped, instead, such hexagons are presented as “No Data”.

Visualisations presented in this factsheet cannot be used to compare changes over time in the assessed areas. This is because hexagons presented on the maps contain more than three settlements, and the settlements that are assessed, as well as their number, may vary each month.

### About REACH

REACH 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. All REACH activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information, you can write to our global office: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org). Visit [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org) and follow us @REACH\_info.

### Feedback

We are devoted to improving our outputs, so that we can continue supporting our partners and all actors within the humanitarian response. Please share your feedback related to this Hard-to-Reach Assessment July 2021 Factsheet using the following [link](#).

### ABOUT REACH’S COVID-19 RESPONSE

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. As an initiative deployed in many vulnerable and crisis-affected countries, REACH is deeply concerned by the devastating impact the COVID-19 pandemic may have on the millions of affected people we seek to serve. Those who are already facing severe and extreme humanitarian needs risk being made even more vulnerable by the persisting pandemic.