

LASER PULSE

Long-term Assistance and Services for Research (LASER)
Partners for University-Led Solutions Engine (PULSE)

BHA/TPQ/SPADe Somalia Resilience Food Security Activity (RFSA) Annotated Bibliography

SUPPLEMENT TO AGREEMENT NO. AID-7200AA18CA00009

AOR Name: Brent Wells

October 3, 2023

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It was produced for the LASER PULSE Project, managed by Purdue University. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

This annotated bibliography is one of the BHA/TPQ/SPADe Somalia RFSA Design project's deliverables. The project includes a Desk Research and Market Study (DRMS) and Political Economy Analysis (PEA). The research undertaken under this project will inform the design of future multi-year Resilience and Food Security Activities (RFSA) in Somalia. The project is supported via a buy-in from USAID's BHA/TPQ/SPADe into the Long-Term Assistance and Services for Research (LASER) Project currently in place between USAID/DDI/ITR/R and Purdue University under a cooperative agreement # 7200AA18CA00009. The BHA/TPQ/SPADe Somalia RFSA Activity Design project has been executed by Consilient Research under a sub-contract with Purdue University.

AUTHORS

Erin Satterlee, Principal Investigator, Consilient Research
Payce Madden, Lead Officer, Consilient Research
Nicolas Wicaksono, Officer, Consilient Research
Ayazhan Zhalgalova, Officer, Consilient Research
Juuso Miettunen, Team Leader, Consilient Research

ABOUT LASER PULSE

LASER (Long-term Assistance and Services for Research) PULSE (Partners for University-Led Solutions Engine) is a \$70M program funded through USAID's Innovation, Technology, and Research Hub, that delivers research-driven solutions to field-sourced development challenges in USAID partner countries.

A consortium led by Purdue University, with core partners Catholic Relief Services, Indiana University, Makerere University, and the University of Notre Dame, implements the LASER PULSE program through a growing network of 3,500+ researchers and development practitioners in 86 countries.

LASER PULSE collaborates with USAID missions, bureaus, independent offices, and other local stakeholders to identify research needs for critical development challenges and funds and strengthens the capacity of researcher-practitioner teams to co-design solutions that translate into policy and practice.

SUGGESTED CITATION

Satterlee, Erin, Payce Madden, Nicolas Wicaksono, Ayazhan Zhalgalova, and Juuso Miettunen. 2023. BHA/TPQ/SPADe Somalia RFSA Design Project Annotated Bibliography. West Lafayette, IN: Long-term Assistance and Services for Research - Partners for University-Led Solutions Engine (LASER PULSE).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary.....	4
Purpose.....	4
Organizational Structure.....	4
Approach to Geographic and Thematic Tags.....	4
<i>Annotated Bibliography Entries</i>	7
Desk Review and Market Study.....	7
Conflict.....	7
Displacement.....	8
Food Aid.....	10
Food Markets.....	14
Food Production.....	15
Food Security.....	20
Food Access.....	21
Food Availability.....	24
Gender and Youth.....	29
Health and Nutrition.....	33
Resilience.....	37
Political Economy Analysis.....	47
Business and Taxation.....	47
Conflict.....	49
Displacement.....	51
Land.....	55
Political Economy.....	59
Urban Areas.....	61

Acronyms

ACLED	Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project
AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somalia
ATMIS	African Union Transition Mission in Somalia
BHA	Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance
BRCiS	Building Resilient Communities in Somalia
CBI	cash-based interventions
CBT	cash-based transfers
CCCM	Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster
CVA	cash and voucher assistance
DFID	United Kingdom Department for International Development
DINA	Drought Impact Needs Assessment
DRMS	Desk Review and Market Study
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FCS	food consumption score
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning System Network
FSNAU	Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit
GEEL	Growth, Enterprise, Employment, and Livelihoods
GIEWS	Global Information and Early Warning System
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HDDS	household dietary diversity score
IDP	internally displaced person
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
LASER PULSE	Long-term Assistance and Services for Research Partners for University-Led Solutions Engine
M4P	Making Markets Work for the Poor
MAD	minimum acceptable diet
MDDC	minimum child dietary diversity
MUAC	mid-upper arm circumference
NGO	non-governmental organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
P/CVE	preventing and countering violent extremism
PD	Positive Deviance
PEA	Political Economy Analysis
RFSA	Resilience Food Security Activities
RPM	Resilience Population Measurement
SATG	Somali Agriculture Technical Group
SNA	Somali National Army
SPADe	Strategic Planning and Activity Design
TPQ	Office of Technical Program Quality
UCT	unconditional cash transfer
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	water, sanitation, and hygiene
WFP	World Food Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

The USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) Office of Technical and Program Quality (TPQ) Strategic Planning and Activity Design (SPADe) has engaged Consilient Research through the Long-term Assistance and Services for Research Partners for University-led Solutions Engine (LASER PULSE) mechanism to support the design of the forthcoming Resilience Food Security Activity (RFSa) in Somalia. Under this project, Consilient Research will undertake a series of research activities that will inform the design of a future multi-year RFSa in Somalia, which will serve the needs of rural Somali communities affected by chronic food insecurity. The scope of work includes two studies: a Desk Review and Market Study (DRMS) and a Political Economy Analysis (PEA).

The purpose of this Annotated Bibliography is primarily to provide LASER PULSE and USAID/BHA/TPQ/SPADe teams with a summary of literature under consideration for the desk-based portion of the two research studies. Based on this review, LASER PULSE and SPADe teams will be able to highlight any gaps and suggest new sources that can complement those reviewed already. In parallel, this Annotated Bibliography will also serve as an important internal resource for the Consilient Research team as they move to the analysis and report writing stages of the project. This document may also be used by other researchers, program design teams, and implementing organizations interested in understanding the current extent of literature focused on the topic of food and nutrition security in Somalia.

The study teams have reviewed almost 100 sources related to various aspects of food security in Somalia. These sources include peer-reviewed literature from academic journals, “gray” literature published by development organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and bilateral development agencies, discussion papers, market studies, and context assessments.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

This annotated bibliography is organized into two main sections by study type: DRMS and PEA. Within each study, the literature is organized by the major thematic topics to be addressed during the research (listed below). We note that literature listed under the two main sections and under each thematic topic is not exclusively relevant to that section/topic; literature listed under the Desk Review and Market Study, for example, was deemed to be of primary relevance to that study, but may also inform the Political Economy Analysis.

APPROACH TO GEOGRAPHIC AND THEMATIC TAGS

All sources cited in the Annotated Bibliography are tagged with relevant geographic and thematic areas of interest. These tags are not intended to comprehensively describe each source, but rather to indicate the ways in which each source is relevant to the current research. Below, we list the primary thematic tags for each study, secondary thematic tags (i.e., tags that are not used as subheadings under the organizational structure, but which are included because of usefulness to the research process), and geographic tags. For thematic tags, as with the organizational structure, we note that tags are in some cases shared across the DRMS and the PEA.

Thematic tags:

- Desk Review and Market Study: Primary thematic tags
 - Conflict
 - Displacement
 - Food Aid
 - Food Production
 - Food Security
 - Food Access
 - Food Availability
 - Gender and Youth
 - Health and Nutrition
 - Poverty
 - Resilience
- Desk Review and Market Study: Secondary thematic tags
 - Cash Transfers
 - Child Nutrition
 - Clan Dynamics
 - Drought
 - Land
 - Key Stakeholders
 - Marginalization
 - Political Economy
 - Remittances
 - Risk
 - Vouchers
 - Water and Sanitation
 - *Commodity types, including:*
 - Cowpea
 - Fisheries
 - Livestock
 - Maize
 - Rice
 - Sesame
 - Sorghum
- Political Economy Analysis: Primary thematic tags
 - Business and Taxation
 - Conflict
 - Displacement
 - Land
 - Political Economy
 - Urban Areas
- Political Economy Analysis: Secondary thematic tags
 - al-Shabaab
 - Clan Dynamics
 - Drought
 - Food Aid

- Food Security
- Gender and Youth
- Governance
- Health and Nutrition
- Justice
- Key Stakeholders
- Marginalization
- Militias
- Poverty
- Water and Sanitation

Geographic tags:

- Africa
- Global South
- Somalia
- South Central Zone:
 - Galmudug
 - Hirshabelle
 - Jubaland
 - South West State
- District and city levels:
 - Afgoye
 - Baidoa
 - Berdale
 - Hudur
 - Jowhar
 - Kismayo
 - Mogadishu

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ENTRIES

DESK REVIEW AND MARKET STUDY

CONFLICT

Alfano, M and Thomas Cornelissen. "Spatial Spillovers of Conflict in Somalia." *IZA – Institute of Labor Economics Discussion Paper Series 15761* (2022). Retrieved from <https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/15761/spatial-spillovers-of-conflict-in-somalia>.

Summary: This paper investigates the economic spillover effects of the al-Shabaab insurgency on food prices at markets located many miles from the conflict zones. Focusing primarily on domestic maize production, transportation, and price, the authors find conflict along transportation networks has a significant impact on maize costs, and they estimate this is up to half the magnitude of the effect of rainfall. Transport appears to be affected by conflict, with producers stopping the shipping of goods rather than redirecting while routes are the scene of battles. The study combines data from a number of sources to conduct its analysis and reach its conclusions. These include spatially and temporally localized conflict data from the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), monthly maize price data across ten domestic markets from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), detailed maize transportation data from non-governmental organizations working on the ground, and satellite data showing the strength of vehicle light emissions along the major maize transportation routes. Overall, the paper argues its findings show the conflicts largely centered in southern Somalia decrease food security, nutrition, health, and education for households far from the violence, ultimately eroding human capital in the north of the country also.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Hirshabelle, Galmudug

Thematic tags: Conflict, Food Production, Food Security, Health and Nutrition, al-Shabaab, Maize

Maystadt, Jean-François, and Olivier Ecker. "Extreme Weather and Civil War: Does Drought Fuel Conflict in Somalia through Livestock Price Shocks?" *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 96, 4 (2014): 1157-82. Retrieved from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1093/ajae/aau010>.

Summary: A growing body of evidence shows a causal relationship between extreme weather events and civil conflict incidence at the global level. This paper finds that this causality is also valid for droughts and local violent conflicts in a within-country setting over a short time frame in the case of Somalia. The authors estimate that a one standard deviation increase in drought intensity and length raises the likelihood of conflict by 62%. The authors also find that drought affects conflict through livestock price changes, establishing livestock markets as the primary channel of transmission in Somalia.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Conflict, Food Availability, Food Access, Livestock, Drought

United Nations Accountability Project – Somalia. "Neither Inevitable nor Accidental: The Impact of Marginalization in Somalia." In *War and Peace in Somalia: National Grievances, Local Conflict and*

al-Shabaab, edited by Michael Keating and Matt Waldman, 275-284. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. Retrieved from <https://academic.oup.com/book/35091>.

Summary: The lack of inclusion in Somali society has a profound effect on the vulnerability of certain groups. According to the UN Somalia Accountability Project, certain groups, especially the Rahanweyn clan and Bantu Somalis, were severely, and disproportionately, affected by the droughts of 1991–1992 and 2011–2012. It is highly likely that they have also borne the brunt of the 2016–2017 drought. This chapter argues for the importance of understanding the political economy of protection and its failures. It calls for humanitarian, recovery, and stabilization activities to take proper account of forces that marginalize certain groups and action to avoid exacerbating such vulnerabilities. The complexities of grievances in Somalia mean that exclusion must be addressed if genuine peace and reconciliation are to be achieved.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Conflict, Marginalization, Poverty, Risk, Food Security, Drought, Political Economy

DISPLACEMENT

Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS) Consortium. *Information Ecosystem for Resilience: Access, Use & Needs of Somali Urban Youth*. Mogadishu, Somalia: BRCiS, 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.nrc.no/globalassets/images/thematic/brcis/research---idp-youth-information-ecosystem-assessment.pdf>.

Summary: This study examines the information ecosystem among vulnerable youth residing in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in Somalia, where 86% of adults own mobile phones. Participants indicated that health and education information received sufficient coverage, while information on evictions was equally important but received less attention. Messages of hope that portrayed opportunities and future support were also highly valued. The dissemination of information followed a "hubs-and-spokes system," with key figures like sheikhs, camp leaders, and community meetings serving as hubs for injecting information, which then spread through social networks. Trustworthy sources of information included teachers, religious leaders, non-governmental organization (NGO) staff, friends, family, and radio. Radio was particularly effective in supporting peacebuilding and resilience capacities among youth. Although most camps had early warning mechanisms, they were limited and aligned with the hubs-and-spokes system, potentially leaving less-connected individuals vulnerable. For instance, during floods in Beledweyne, those who had turned off their phones at night to save energy couldn't be reached and were among the casualties. To address this, the report recommends supporting phone usage by subsidizing costs or investing in local renewable energy sources to reduce charging expenses.

Geographic tags: Mogadishu, Baidoa, Somalia

Thematic tags: Displacement, Resilience, Youth

Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster Somalia. *Berdale IDP Site Verification*. Mogadishu, Somalia: CCCM Cluster Somalia, 2022. Retrieved from <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/94413>.

Summary: The Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster is an Inter-Agency Standing Committee coordination mechanism that supports people affected by displacement. It collects data and regularly releases briefs on areas with IDP populations in Somalia. This one identified 42 IDP sites in the town of Berdale, with 14,520 households, hosting around 102,733 individuals. From these, 24% were considered as having an extreme or high risk of eviction and had been issued with eviction notices. 45% of the sites reported communal or permanent ownership land tenure and 62% said there was no agreement in place, while 56% of those with agreements reported oral agreements.

Geographic tags: Berdale, South West State, Somalia

Thematic tags: Displacement, Land, Key Stakeholders

Osman, Alinor Abdi and Gumataw Kifle Abebe. "Rural Displacement and Its Implications on Livelihoods and Food Insecurity: The Case of Inter-Riverine Communities in Somalia." *Agriculture* 13, no. 7 (2023): 1444. Retrieved from <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-0472/13/7/1444>.

Summary: This study investigates the phenomenon of forced displacement in Somalia over the past few decades and its implications for the livelihoods and food security of IDP communities. The findings reveal that the drivers of displacement have exhibited variation across different periods, encompassing conflicts, droughts, food scarcity, and political intricacies. Notably, the displacement experienced by inter-riverine communities primarily stems from weak institutions, intensified resource competition, disputes over fertile agricultural land, and conflict and food scarcity. This displacement has resulted in a rapid increase in urban populations and socio-economic crises. Primary data substantiates the severe socio-economic challenges faced by displaced individuals. Such historical perspectives and empirical evidence allow policymakers and stakeholders to better comprehend the multifaceted challenges confronting Somalia. The study underscores the agricultural implications of forced displacement, emphasizing the importance of targeted interventions to revitalize agricultural systems, resolve land disputes, facilitate access to vital resources, and enhance the livelihood conditions of affected communities within Somalia and in similar contexts elsewhere.

Geographic tags:

Thematic tags: Displacement, Food Security, Poverty, Conflict

REACH Initiative. *Detailed Site Assessment: Afgooye District, Lower Shabelle Region, Somalia*. Mogadishu, Somalia: REACH Initiative, 2022. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/attachments/81088afe-48eb-32a0-acf9-7c52448eef71/REACH_SOM_Factsheet_DSA-Afgooye-District_April-2022.pdf.

Summary: The Detailed Site Assessment reports are published by REACH and the CCCM Cluster in order to provide the humanitarian community with up-to-date information on the location of IDP sites, the conditions and capacity of the sites, and an estimate of the severity of humanitarian needs of residents. This 2022 factsheet for Afgoye reports an estimated 41,968 IDPs across 47 sites. These are located in the town itself and on the main transportation route to the northwest and southeast of Afgoye. Respondents reported most food was purchased from local markets, with economic causes being the primary cause of inability to access food, and the borrowing of food or money being the main strategies to overcome this. Sixty percent reported living on private land, 28% in locations of mixed ownership, and 11% on government land. Sixty-two percent reported resident camp management mechanisms, 53% reported no

management mechanisms, and only 26% reported some form of camp leader. Similarly, the most commonly reported types of available committees on the sites were women's committees, camp management committees, and elder meetings.

Geographic tags: Afgoye, South West State, Somalia

Thematic tags: Displacement, Food Security, Land

FOOD AID

Doocy, Shannon, Martin Busingye, Emily Lyles, Elizabeth Colantouni, Bridget Aidam, George Ebulu, and Kevin Savage. "Cash and Voucher Assistance and Children's Nutrition Status in Somalia." *Maternal and Child Nutrition* 16, 3 (2020). Retrieved from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/mcn.12966>.

Summary: To address ongoing food insecurity and acute malnutrition in Somalia, a broad range of assistance modalities are used, including in-kind food, food vouchers, and cash transfers. Evidence of the impact of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) on the prevention of acute malnutrition is limited in humanitarian and development settings. This study examined the impact of CVA on the prevention of child acute malnutrition in 2017/2018 in the context of the Somalia food crisis. Changes in diet and acute malnutrition were measured over a 4-month period among children ages 6–59 months from households receiving household transfers of approximately US\$450 delivered either as food vouchers or a mix of in-kind food, vouchers, and cash. Baseline to endline change in children's dietary diversity, meal frequency, minimum acceptable diet (MAD), mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC), and acute malnutrition (MUAC < 12.5 cm) were compared using difference-in-difference analysis with inverse probability weighting. There were no statistically significant changes in dietary diversity, meal frequency, or the proportion of children with MAD for either intervention group. Adjusted change in mean MUAC showed increases of 0.5 cm in the food voucher group and 0.1 cm in the mixed transfer group. In adjusted analysis, the prevalence of acute malnutrition among children under 5 years increased by 0.7% among food voucher recipients and decreased by 4.8% in mixed transfer recipients. The change over time in both mean MUAC and acute malnutrition prevalence was similar for both interventions, suggesting that cash and vouchers had similar effects on child nutrition status.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Aid, Health and Nutrition, Vouchers, Cash Transfers

Grijalva-Eternod, Carlos S., et al. "A Cash-based Intervention and the Risk of Acute Malnutrition in Children Aged 6–59 Months Living in Internally Displaced Persons Camps in Mogadishu, Somalia: A Non-randomized Cluster Trial." *PLoS Medicine* 15, no. 10 (2018): e1002684. Retrieved from <https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1002684>.

Summary: In the context of Somalia's long-standing conflict and high prevalence of acute malnutrition among children under 5 years old, cash-based interventions (CBIs) have been implemented since 2011. However, their actual nutritional impact remains unclear. This study aims to determine whether a CBI can effectively reduce acute malnutrition and its associated risk factors. The study conducted a non-randomized cluster trial in IDP camps near Mogadishu, Somalia. Ten IDP camps were selected as intervention clusters, where all households received a monthly unconditional cash transfer of US\$84 for

five months, along with non-food item kits and free piped water. Ten nearby clusters were chosen as control groups. Data were collected from households and children aged 6–59 months to assess malnutrition risk factors and the incidence of acute malnutrition. Results revealed that the CBI appeared to increase Child Dietary Diversity Scores in households. However, the incidence of acute malnutrition did not decrease significantly in the intervention group compared to the control group. The CBI did show positive effects on household expenditure, food consumption, and coping strategies. Authors conclude that the CBI improved household wealth and food security but did not notably decrease acute malnutrition risk among children in IDP camps. The study suggests that modifying the intervention, such as incorporating nutritious foods or behavior change communication, might enhance its nutritional impact and warrants further investigation.

Geographic tags: Mogadishu, Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Aid, Health and Nutrition, Cash Transfers, Child Nutrition

Jaspars, Susanne, Guhad M. Adan, and Nisar Majid. *Food and Power in Somalia: Business as Usual? A Scoping Study on the Political Economy of Food Following Shifts in Food Assistance and in Governance*. London: The London School of Economics and Political Science, 2020. Retrieved from https://eprints.lse.ac.uk/103138/7/Food_and_Power_in_Somalia_business_as_usual_v5.pdf.

Summary: This study explores the intricate relationship between food, power, and politics in Somalia over the past decade. It delves into how changes in governance, aid practices, and economic activities have reshaped power dynamics within the country. The shift from food aid to cash transfers has transformed the influence of various actors, including local authorities, non-governmental organizations, and large businesses. This shift has also led to the exploitation of vulnerable populations, with businesses benefitting from their labor. Additionally, the study highlights how al-Shabaab's control over certain regions and the transition to cash-crop production have exacerbated displacement and dependency on aid. The report suggests investigating potentially unlawful or unethical business actions, promoting transparency in aid practices' impact on politics and conflict, and encouraging donors to prioritize transparency in their support.

Geographic tags: Baidoa, Mogadishu, Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Aid, Political Economy, Cash Transfers, Displacement, Key Stakeholders

Jaspars, Susanne. "Social Nutrition and Accountability for Mass Starvation." In *Accountability for Mass Starvation: Testing the Limits of the Law*, edited by Bridget Conley, 46-70. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022. <https://academic.oup.com/book/44844>

Summary: The author compares the concepts of Medicalized Nutrition and Social Nutrition to argue the analysis of hunger and famine should never be removed from the sociopolitical context and the political and economic decision-making from which it arises. Solely using a Medicalized Nutrition framework to understand hunger depoliticizes it by focusing only on the body of an individual, what is lacking nutritionally, and the physical impact of this. The author considers these approaches in the contexts of Somalia, South Sudan, and Ethiopia, and in the Bay and Bakool regions of Somalia, she argues the same marginalized riverine and inter-riverine populations (such as the Rahanweyn, Gabaweyn, and Bantu) have suffered highly disproportionate rates of violence, land grabs, displacement, and ultimately food insecurity since the 1990s. Using a Social Nutrition approach reveals how unequal power dynamics are

reflected in the management and distribution of resources and food aid, including the exclusion or heavy taxation of weaker populations by more powerful groups. Furthermore, the concentration of food aid distribution in government-held urban areas can lead to the uprooting of the most nutritionally stressed rural populations, which consequently causes more land loss, the compounding of food insecurity, and dependence on aid. As a result, malnutrition, food insecurity, and starvation are understood as highly politicized bodily experiences.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Baidoa, Berdale, Hudur

Thematic tags: Food Aid, Food Security, Health and Nutrition, Displacement

Kipchumba, Elijah, Claire Taylor and Abdullahi Arays. *Lumped or Big: Effects of Unconditional Cash Transfer Fade Out Two Years Later in Urban Hiran, Somalia*. Mogadishu, Somalia: Save the Children, 2019. Retrieved from <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/lumped-or-big-effects-unconditional-cash-transfer-fade-out-two-years-later-urban-hiran/>.

Summary: This study assesses the impact of lumped or installment cash transfers on households over a two-year period. Participants were divided into four groups: 1) \$100 payment in two monthly transfers (control); 2) \$100 lump sum (control); 3) \$500 lump sum (treatment); 4) \$1000 lump sum (control). The study reveals that unconditional cash transfer (UCT) programs initially acted as a buffer for small enterprises, preventing their decline during droughts. However, this protective effect diminished within the two-year timeframe, irrespective of the type or amount of cash transfers. Households responded to the drought's impact by seeking more wage employment opportunities, but the overall availability of wage work decreased as many surviving businesses were small, family-run ventures. The micro-enterprises that survived after two years demonstrated higher net worth and increased profits, primarily due to business skills training and large cash transfers. Surprisingly, the group that received the \$500 UCT achieved nearly the same profit levels as those who received the larger \$1000 grant. Although households that received larger UCTs initially saved part of the grant, drought conditions forced them to dip into their savings, leading to a decline in household expenditure over the subsequent two years. However, lumping the cash transfers and increasing their size did reduce the likelihood of resorting to negative food security-related coping strategies in the short term. Overall, the study highlights the dynamics of cash transfers' impact on households and the implications of various transfer structures in the context of drought resilience.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Aid, Resilience, Cash Transfers, Drought

Majid, Nisar and Adele Harmer. *Collective Resolution to Enhance Accountability and Transparency in Emergencies: Southern Somalia Report*. Nairobi, Kenya: Transparency International, 2016. Retrieved from https://www.humanitarianoutcomes.org/sites/default/files/publications/create_somalia_report_2016.pdf.

Summary: This study analyzes the supply chain and service delivery of key aid sectors in southern Somalia with food and cash as delivery mechanisms and important elements of this. The study finds that while governments, international, and national aid agencies are gradually building better practices and

mechanisms for mitigating corruption and clan-based or political patronage, these factors are still influencing the flow and destination of aid, including food, within the area of study. For example, the report finds qualitative evidence for clan-based allegiances influencing the distribution of food aid among internally displaced persons camps, with some camps being excluded completely. It also reports on the challenges of hard-to-access areas created in the supply of aid. Local non-governmental organizations sometimes fill this gap, but the report finds evidence these organizations are sometimes considered business opportunities by their founders and a means to access the resources the United Nations will subsequently supply. The size and capacity of the organization and the distribution of resources, including food, can all be manipulated to generate profit, with this influencing food insecurity for vulnerable populations.

Geographic tags: Mogadishu, Baidoa, Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Aid, Displacement, Clan Dynamics, Key Stakeholders

Majid, Nisar, Mohamed Jelle, Guhad Adan, Aydrus Daar, Khalif Abdirahman, Peter Hailey, Nancy Balfour, Andrew Seal, and Daniel Maxwell. *Another Humanitarian (and Political) Crisis in Somalia in 2022*. Boston: Feinstein International Center, Tufts University, 2022. Retrieved from https://fic.tufts.edu/wp-content/uploads/Another-Crisis-in-Somalia_6-9.pdf.

Summary: In 2022, Somalia experienced a severe humanitarian crisis due to consecutive failed rainy seasons, an ongoing conflict, and the impact of rising global food prices, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine disrupting global food and fuel markets. This study compares the current crisis to past humanitarian challenges in Somalia, revealing that many issues identified eight years ago persist and, in some cases, have worsened. A significant challenge is still the humanitarian community's ability to identify and aid the most vulnerable groups in Southern Somalia, primarily defined by the clan system, which suffered the highest mortality rates during the 2011 famine and the 2016-17 crisis. The paper provides recommendations for addressing this problem and other persistent challenges in humanitarian efforts in Somalia. These recommendations, originally proposed in 2014, include scaling up mitigation efforts, incorporating socio-political analysis into humanitarian strategies, engaging in honest discussions about risk and risk-sharing, and preparing for negotiations with Al-Shabaab for access. According to authors, these recommendations remain relevant and should be promptly reconsidered alongside life-saving responses.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Aid, Food Security, Food Access, Conflict, Resilience, Risk

World Food Program. *Somalia: Annual Country Report 2022*. Mogadishu, Somalia: World Food Program, 2022. Retrieved from https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000147996/download/?_ga=2.132505416.773226984.1692276289-117808629.1692276289.

Summary: This report serves as a document aimed at informing donors about the utilization of their contributions during the specified reporting period. The report's objective is to provide an accurate, transparent, and evidence-driven account of the World Food Program's (WFP) performance. This assessment evaluates the efficiency, effectiveness, and cost-effectiveness of WFP's operations, aligning with its mission to work towards achieving zero hunger. According to the report, in 2022, Somalia faced

an extensive drought due to five consecutive seasons of below-average rainfall. This was exacerbated by global food crises, instability, subnational conflicts, and resulted in severe food insecurity for 6.7 million people. To address this, WFP increased its humanitarian assistance, reaching 9.8 million beneficiaries with food and nutrition support, effectively preventing famine. WFP utilized both cash-based transfers (CBT) and in-kind assistance, with CBT amounting to USD 470 million in 2022, a substantial increase from the previous year. The organization extended its assistance to vulnerable populations in hard-to-reach areas, including new internally displaced persons. Additionally, WFP used anticipatory measures to provide early support to areas facing drought risks. The organization scaled up malnutrition treatment and prevention programs, with successful outcomes. WFP also provided school meals to 189,000 students affected by the drought, helping them stay in school. Furthermore, WFP collaborated with Somalia's institutions and other partners to enhance capacity, contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, and strengthen humanitarian response efforts. By leveraging its strengths and partnerships, WFP played a critical role in addressing immediate needs while also fostering long-term resilience and sustainable development in Somalia in 2022.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Aid, Food Security, Resilience, Key Stakeholders

FOOD MARKETS

Hastings, Justin V., Sarah G. Phillips, David Ubilava, and Andrey Vasnev. "Price Transmission in Conflict-Affected States: Evidence from Cereal Markets of Somalia." *Journal of African Economies* 31, no. 3 (2022): 272-91. Retrieved from <https://academic.oup.com/jae/article-abstract/31/3/272/6299941>.

Summary: This paper examines the extent to which agricultural markets are integrated in conflict-affected Somalia. It examines the dynamics of monthly price series of rice, maize, and sorghum across eleven cities (markets) of Somalia. Using conflict as a source of transaction costs between spatially connected markets, we examine its role in price transmission between the markets in a panel smooth transition regression framework. We find that in the case of rice—an imported cereal grain—conflict tends to reduce the speed of price transmission between markets. By contrast, we find no evidence of conflict-related transaction costs in the case of maize and sorghum—commodities that are locally produced, particularly in the central and southern parts of Somalia. In all instances, we find that there is some degree of spatial integration among cereal markets around the country, perhaps partly due to informal institutions that can bridge the divides created by conflict, distance and internal political fragmentation.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Markets, Conflict, Maize, Rice, Sorghum

Springer, Joanna, Tracy Slaybaugh-Mitchell, Guhad Adan, and Alison Bean de Hernandez. "Comparative Resilience of Somali Grain and Livestock Market Systems." *Enterprise Development and Microfinance* 33, no. 1 (2022): 12-27. Retrieved from <https://practicalactionpublishing.com/article/3076/comparative-resilience-of-somali-grain-and-livestock-market-systems>.

Summary: Livestock and grain market systems in Somalia’s South West State, while vital to food security and household income, are affected by recurrent shocks, including insecurity, climate shocks, pests and livestock disease, desert locusts, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The fact that markets continue to function indicates a substantial degree of resilience. Findings from a mixed-method assessment across eight domains of system resilience indicate that the grain market system is more resilient than the livestock market system in three key domains: business strategy, diversity, and connectivity. Results show that grain businesses recover more quickly and are more likely to take action to achieve recovery than livestock businesses. When confronted by thin markets, practitioners have tended to respond by strengthening existing market actors, with the goal of filling critical gaps in the market. However, the paper’s findings provide new types of information to address systemic issues and strengthen market system resilience.

Geographic tags: Somalia, South West State

Thematic tags: Food Markets, Food Security, Livestock

World Food Program. *Food Market, Supply Situation, and Market Functionality in Southern Somalia.*

Mogadishu, Somalia: World Food Program, 2022. Retrieved from

<https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/food-market-supply-situation-and-market-functionality-southern-somalia-technical-note-september-2022>.

Summary: This report was written in response to growing fears that injection of additional cash transfers in the drought response could lead to markets collapsing in Somalia given already high prices in the context of reduced cereal output this year. The analysis showed that despite constrained functioning of food markets in localized areas in Southern Somalia, there is limited risk of markets collapsing should the World Food Program continue to scale up cash-based transfers. The report includes information on the monthly domestic production gap of cereals in southern Somalia, cereal imports and the status of trade flows, market access and integration, humanitarian access, and grain prices.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Bosasso, Mogadishu, Kismayo, Baidoa, Hudur

Thematic tags: Food Markets, Food Aid, Food Security, Food Availability, Drought, Cash Transfers

FOOD PRODUCTION

African Union. *Dakar 2 Somalia. Country Food and Agriculture Delivery Compact.* Dakar: African Union, 2023. Retrieved from

https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/somalie_country_food_and_agriculture_delivery_compact.pdf.

Summary: This report provides background information related to the African Union’s Country Food and Agriculture Delivery Compact in Somalia. Implementation of the Compact is intended to increase investment in promising food value chains for increased production for local consumption, improved local dietary diversity, and export; double crop production to meet up to 60 percent of the local demand for cereals and oilseeds and increase commercial crops exports; double production in the livestock sector and increase the value of livestock products; and increase fish exports. Accordingly, the report discusses the current food security and production status in Somalia, the National Agriculture

Investment Plans and progress to date, partner commitment and input, and needs and challenges to achieve the Compact.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Production, Food Security, Food Aid, Food Availability, Livestock, Key Stakeholders

Gavin, Ryan, et al. "On-farm Irrigated Maize Production in the Somali Gu Season." *African Journal of Agricultural Research* 13, no. 19 (2018): 969-977. Retrieved from <https://academicjournals.org/journal/AJAR/article-full-text-pdf/062376656982>.

Summary: The Somali Agriculture Technical Group (SATG) conducted a study to assess various nitrogen application methods (Broadcast, Hill, and Row) within an enhanced irrigated maize production system in the Lower Shabelle riverine region of Somalia. This system incorporated best management practices recommended by SATG, including mineral nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers, the Bulldozer pesticide, and increased planting density. The study compared SATG's system with a zero system (same best management practices excluding mineral nitrogen) and a traditional farming system using local practices. The research was conducted on eighty-one farms near Afgoye and Awdhegale villages. During the 2014 Gu season, the nitrogen application method didn't affect grain yields, stover yields, or plant heights. However, the SATG system (Broadcast, Hill, and Row treatments) produced higher grain yields, stover yields, and plant heights compared to both the zero treatment and the traditional system. Notably, significant interactions between location and treatment were observed for grain yield. In farms near Afgoye, the improved SATG system yielded 48% more grain than the zero treatment and 64% more than the traditional system. Near Awdhegale, these values were 56% and 73%, respectively. These variations were likely due to differences in farm management and soil properties. Analyses indicated that applying mineral nitrogen resulted in the best yields with higher planting densities and early planting dates. The findings highlight that Somali farmers can substantially boost maize yields in the Lower Shabelle region by adopting the straightforward best management practices suggested by SATG. The authors suggest that future research should delve into understanding the region's soil characteristics, conducting comprehensive plant population studies, and testing different maize varieties.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Afgoye

Thematic tags: Food Production, Maize

Gavin, Ryan, Hussein Haji, and P. Porter. "The Relative Contributions of Cereal Production, Imports, and Aid to Somali Food Security." *African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development* 19, no. 3 (2019): 14587-14601. Retrieved from <https://www.ajol.info/index.php/ajfand/article/view/190736>.

Summary: This study examines historical trends in domestic cereal production, cereal imports, and food aid (measured in cereal equivalents) in Somalia. The analysis utilizes publicly accessible secondary data from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Program. The data reveals that Somali cereal production has not shown improvement since the 1960s and has been marked by substantial year-to-year fluctuations. Moreover, only maize and sorghum play significant roles in domestic cereal production, and the recent total yields of these crops are well below the levels seen in the 1980s. Combining the per capita production of maize and sorghum shows a drastic decline over time—from a peak of 91 kilograms per capita in 1972 to a mere 30 kilograms per capita in 2012. This

decline is likely due to stagnant production and a rapidly growing Somali population, which has surged by over 350% since 1961. Consequently, the reliance on cereal imports and aid has risen, making Somalia vulnerable to disruptions in global cereal markets and foreign policies. The authors suggest that any future food security strategy for Somalia should encompass efforts to enhance domestic cereal production. Recent agricultural research indicates that implementing basic best management practices in agriculture can lead to increased cereal yields in the country.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Production, Food Aid, Maize, Sorghum

Integra Government Services International LLC and Consilient Research. *Growth, Enterprise, Employment, and Livelihoods (GEEL) End Line Process Evaluation*. Washington, D.C.: United States Agency for International Development, 2022. Retrieved from https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00ZK1N.pdf.

Summary: United States Agency for International Development/Somalia's Economic Growth office implemented the five-year, \$74,000,000 GEEL Activity (September 2015 - September 2021) to promote inclusive economic growth in Somalia by promoting systemic and sectoral changes in agriculture, fisheries, and livestock by stimulating production, processing, employment, and enterprise development along each of the value chains. This evaluation assesses internal and external factors that affected GEEL's ability to adapt to changing political and economic conditions, as well as other shocks like COVID-19, and provides information and analyses that can be used to improve future economic growth, youth, and gender programming, and inform the implementation of USAID/Somalia's new flagship economic growth activity.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu, Hirshabelle, South West State

Thematic tags: Food Production, Resilience, Fisheries, Livestock, Sesame, Key Stakeholders

Payet, Joseph Randolph. *Value Chain Analysis for the Fisheries Sub-sector in Mogadishu and Kismayo*. Mogadishu, Somalia: Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), 2017. Available upon request from the authors.

Summary: The Resilience Project, funded by the United Kingdom Department for International Development through the Building Resilient Communities in Somalia consortium, aims to promote commercial fish production and marketing in specific villages in Mogadishu and Kismayo. The project seeks to mobilize and support fisherfolks and fish traders to improve their outputs and sales margins through better access to inputs and output services. The assessment findings in this paper reveal that despite the advantages offered by the fishing sector in Kismayo and Mogadishu, the industry has faced significant challenges since the civil war. To enhance the long-term development and viability of the fisheries, there is a need for industry and government intervention. The economic value of the fisheries in Kismayo and Mogadishu was estimated at US\$21.5 million and US\$31.7 million respectively, with the potential to double if the issues highlighted in the report are addressed systematically. Improving fisheries governance, supporting artisanal fisheries, enhancing the financial credit framework, minimizing political intervention at the community level, and addressing socio-cultural and environmental concerns are essential for developing value chains in Somalia. Additionally, reducing post-harvest losses by introducing ice holds on boats, establishing proper harbors, landing sites, and

markets are crucial strategies to stimulate value chain growth in both cities. Strengthening governance systems, managing fishery stocks, combating illegal and unregulated fishing practices, and improving the welfare of fishing communities are immediate needs. Developing micro-credit facilities can help fishers bypass the challenges of dealing with formal financial institutions. Fisheries cooperatives in Kismayo and Mogadishu can engage in public-private partnerships to provide much-needed infrastructure and support the broader development of the sector.

Geographic tags: Kismayo, Mogadishu, Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Production, Resilience, Fisheries, Key Stakeholders

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). *Planting Material and Storage Inputs Assessment in Somalia*. Rome: FAO, 2023b. Available from authors upon request.

Summary: This report presents the results of planting material and improved storage bag assessment conducted in Somalia in December 2022. The assessment looked at the structure and functioning of the seed systems and storage facilities farmers used and investigated the availability, accessibility, and quality of the seed and storage bag farmers in use. The assessment also reviewed the research and extension efforts or services that used to be practiced prior to the civil war in Somalia. Multiple and diverse indicators show the seed security of farmers in the target area faces some seed security constraints. Seed availability was not identified as a problem. In all of the sites assessed, farmers were able to use their own saved seeds and access seeds from market sources. Seed access, that is having the means to exchange or buy seed, was found as a problem for some of the target groups, as was the money to buy other inputs such as fertilizer and fuel for irrigation. Seed producers (mainly companies) have shown momentum in producing the major crops seeds, including certified seeds, and channeling these through agro-dealers and local seed traders.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Hirshabelle, Galmudug, Jubaland, South West State

Thematic tags: Food Production, Food Availability, Cowpea, Maize, Rice, Sesame, Sorghum

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). *Status of the World's Soil Resources: Regional Assessment of Soil Changes in Africa South of the Sahara*. Rome: FAO, 2015. Retrieved from <https://www.fao.org/3/bc598e/bc598e.pdf>.

Summary: This report discusses land degradation in sub-Saharan Africa, which is believed to be expanding at an alarming rate, accompanied by the lowest agriculture and livestock yields of any region in the world. Soil degradation, the decline in soil quality caused by improper use by humans, usually for agricultural, pastoral, industrial or urban purposes, is one of the root causes of declining agricultural productivity in sub-Saharan Africa and unless the process of degradation is controlled, many parts of the continent will suffer increasingly from food insecurity.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Africa

Thematic tags: Food Production

Warsame, Abdimalik Ali, Ibrahim Abdukadir Sheik-Ali, Osman M. Jama, Abdullahi Abdirahman Hassan, and Galad Mohamed Barre. "Assessing the Effects of Climate Change and Political Instability on

Sorghum Production: Empirical Evidence from Somalia.” *Journal of Cleaner Production* 360 (2022). Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0959652622015037>.

Summary: Climate change induces a devastating effect on agricultural production in Somalia leading crop yields to decline, including sorghum. To this end, this study aims to ascertain the long-term and casual impacts of climate change – rainfall and temperature – on sorghum production in Somalia for the 1980–2017 period while accounting for the role of political instability, land under sorghum production, and agricultural labor. The empirical result demonstrates that average temperature, political instability, and agricultural labor significantly hamper sorghum production in Somalia in the long-run, whereas average rainfall – albeit insignificantly – and area under sorghum production enhance sorghum production in the long-run. In contrast, a unidirectional causality is established from political instability to sorghum production. Based on empirical results, the study recommends policymakers enact policies aimed to eliminate conflicts to create a stable environment, and establish a crop diversification plan in land under cultivation that would eliminate volatility caused by climatic and biological variations and accelerate the shift from low-productivity to a high-productivity economy.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Production, Sorghum, Food Availability

Warsame, Abdimalik Ali, et al. “Examining the Effects of Climate Change and Political Instability on Maize Production in Somalia.” *Environmental Science and Pollution Research* 30.2 (2023): 3293-3306. Retrieved from <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11356-022-2227-1>.

Summary: In developing nations, the connection between climate change and the agricultural sector is crucial due to the sensitivity of agricultural production to climate fluctuations. This paper focuses on the impact of climate change factors, specifically rainfall and temperature, as well as non-climatic elements, on maize production in Somalia from 1980 to 2018. The outcomes revealed that both temperature and rainfall adversely affect maize production over the short and long term. However, rainfall has a positive short-term influence. Other factors like rural population and land area dedicated to maize cultivation showed insignificant effects on maize production in the long run. Based on the findings, the study suggests several policy measures. Firstly, the Somali government should focus on reducing conflicts to create a stable political environment, which would bolster agricultural production through increased investment, employment, and output. Secondly, while global in nature, Somalia should collaborate with international partners to combat rising temperatures caused by environmental degradation like deforestation. Lastly, ensuring water availability through irrigation policies such as constructing dams and reservoirs could enhance agricultural production, especially during periods of unpredictable precipitation.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Production, Maize, Food Availability

World Bank and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. *Somalia Country Economic Memorandum Volume 1: Rebuilding Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture in Somalia*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2018. Retrieved from <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/781281522164647812/pdf/124651-REVISED-Somalia-CEM-Agriculture-Report-Main-Report-Revised-July-2018.pdf>.

Summary: This report covers the historical performance of all major agricultural subsectors (livestock, crops, forestry, and fishing) and the status of agro-processing. It also analyzes the subsectors' key medium- and long-term development constraints, challenges, potential for growth, and policy and investment options. The report documents how Somalia's livestock and crops subsectors have been buffeted by deteriorating water and transport infrastructure, persistent insecurity, weak regulatory and enabling institutions, and severe environmental degradation of the country's rangelands and forested areas. Widespread losses to assets, income, and livelihoods stemming from the current drought attest to the sector's acute vulnerability to extreme weather events and climate change.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, Mogadishu, South West State

Thematic tags: Food Production, Food Security, Conflict, Livestock, Sorghum, Maize, Sesame, Cowpea, Fisheries, Food Availability, Drought

FOOD SECURITY

Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). *Somalia Livelihoods Profile*. Washington, D.C.: FSNAU and FEWS NET, 2016. Retrieved from <https://fsnau.org/downloads/somalia-livelihood-profiles>.

Summary: The livelihood profiles offer an analysis of livelihoods and food security on a geographical basis. The profiles form a useful briefing for a newcomer to these areas who needs to get a grasp of food security conditions. The General Livelihood Zone Description offers a general description of the climate, topography, natural resources and local livelihood patterns (livestock rearing, crop production, off-farm income generation etc.). The Markets section contains basic information on the marketing of local production and on any importation of staple food into the zone. There is a section on Conflict, which highlights the important effects that insecurity has had on livelihoods in Somalia. This is followed by a brief description of recent trends in food security over the past four years. This is followed by two sections that provide the core information on the 'Household Economy' of the zone. The Wealth Breakdown section describes four main wealth groups ('very poor', 'poor', 'middle' and 'better-off'), explaining the differences between these groups and how this affects potential access to food and cash income. The Sources of Food and income and expenditures section examine patterns of food and income access at each level of wealth, relating these to the characteristics of each group. The Expenditure Patterns section is of interest in showing what proportion of their annual cash budget households at the different wealth levels spend on food, on household items, on production inputs, etc. Lastly, the section on Hazards, Response and Monitoring Variables provides information on the different types of hazard that affect the zone, differentiated by wealth group where this is appropriate, and coping strategies available to different types of household in the zone, together with a judgment of the likely effectiveness of the strategies.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, Mogadishu, South West State

Thematic tags: Food Security, Poverty, Risk, Food Markets, Food Production, Food Availability, Food Access, Conflict

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). *Somalia: IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis (August - December 2023)*. Nairobi: IPC, 2023. Retrieved from

<https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-ipc-acute-food-insecurity-and-acute-malnutrition-analysis-august-december-2023-published-18-september-2023>.

Summary: The report presents an overview of the food insecurity situation in Somalia from August through December 2023. The report concluded that despite the positive impact of the 2023 Gu rains and sustained humanitarian assistance, the levels of acute food insecurity are projected to remain high. Between October to December 2023, 4.3 million people are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse outcomes. This includes over 1 million people who will likely be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). In the context of reduced humanitarian assistance most of the main IDP settlements analyzed will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Acute malnutrition analysis findings show that approximately 1.5 million children aged 6 to 59 months under the age of five years face acute malnutrition between August 2023 and July 2024, including 330,630 who are likely to be severely malnourished. The increase in the number of people facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse outcomes from 3.7 million between August to September 2023 to 4.3 million between October to December 2023 is due to a combination of factors, including the adverse impacts of El-Nino related heavy rains and flooding and anticipated decline in the level of humanitarian assistance in the coming months because of funding constraints.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu, Galmudug, Jubaland, Puntland, Somaliland, South West State, Baidoa

Thematic tags: Food Security, Health and Nutrition

International Monetary Fund. *Somalia: Selected Issues*. Washington, D.C.: International Monetary Fund, 2022. Retrieved from <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/002/2022/376/article-A001-en.xml>.

Summary: The report discusses both internal and external disruptions that are exacerbating fundamental factors contributing to food insecurity in Somalia, pushing the nation towards the edge of famine. The report also emphasizes the strategies employed by Somali households to manage these challenges and access food, and underscores the involvement of development partners in aiding the government's endeavors to alleviate the effects of these disruptions on the most susceptible segments of the population. The report delineates a number of essential policies that authorities could put into action on a larger scale to confront the underlying causes of food insecurity. Additionally, it suggests that the international community should allocate further resources to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe from unfolding in Somalia.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Security, Food Access, Food Availability, Resilience, Food Aid

FOOD ACCESS

Botreau, H el ene and Marc J. Cohen. "Gender Inequality and Food Insecurity: A Dozen Years After the Food Price Crisis, Rural Women Still Bear the Brunt of Poverty and Hunger." In *Advances in Food Security and Sustainability*, edited by Marc J. Cohen, 53-117. Elsevier, Volume 5, 2020 Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2452263520300033>.

Summary: This macro study analyzes the vulnerability of rural female smallholders in the global south to increased food insecurity caused by global economic shocks, structures, and investment practices. It argues the 2007-2008 food-price crisis has had long-term and ongoing effects that disproportionately impact vulnerable populations, with rural female smallholders in the global south being one of the most critical. Among the general factors identified, the report outlines the detrimental impact of the ongoing liberalization of trade, the acquisition of large tracts of land for cash crops, the deficit in national public investments, and the development of sustainable agriculture by global south governments (often heavily outstripped by military budgets), the lack of a significant increase in aid to agriculture and smallholder rural development, the expanding influence of global multinationals in Global South agriculture, the ongoing impact of climate change and the funds needed to adapt to this, and importantly, the societal inequalities and unequal rights to food women generally suffer. The authors do detail the extensive international response to the food-price crisis, but they argue this is fragmented, still insufficient – especially for that specifically targeting women in agriculture –, and that it has prioritized production issues rather than focusing on the right to food – especially of women.

Geographic tags: Global South, Africa

Thematic tags: Food Access, Food Security, Gender, Food Markets, Food Aid, Marginalization, Poverty, Risk

Hussein, Mohamud, Cherry Law, and Iain Fraser. “An Analysis of Food Demand in a Fragile and Insecure Country: Somalia as a Case Study.” *Food Policy* 101 (2021). Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0306919221000713>.

Summary: This paper presents an analysis of household-level food demand for Somalia, which is emerging from a destructive twenty-year civil war. Using novel World Bank household survey data collected in 2018, the authors estimate demand elasticities for Somalia taking account of differences in household type, regional conflict, and income remittances from overseas. The results reveal the extent to which household food consumption, as represented by expenditure, own-price elasticity, and cross-price elasticities, is highly sensitive to income shocks, especially for animal products such as meat and milk which are the main sources of protein for the population. Furthermore, the impact of an exogenous income shock, affecting food prices and household budgets, will likely result in a less diversified diet because of more emphasis on cereal consumption, especially for nomadic households. The resulting negative macronutrient implications have obvious consequences for levels of malnutrition. As such, improved food security is critical for Somalia’s economic recovery and resilience in the future.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Access, Food Markets, Food Security, Health and Nutrition, Remittances

Majid, Nisar and Stephen McDowell. “Hidden Dimensions of the Somalia Famine.” *Global Food Security* 1, no. 1 (2012): 36–42. Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2211912412000041>.

Summary: This paper shows the importance of using a socio-political lens when analyzing food (in)security in the Somali context, especially within the current context of heightened food stress and drought in the country. The authors argue famine is never “natural;” rather populations are made increasingly vulnerable to food insecurity and hunger through a series of political processes occurring at

local, national, and international scales. In the Bay and Bakool areas of Somalia, the Bantu and Reewin ethnic groups were disproportionately impacted by the famine in the early 1990s and in 2011, as well as making up the majority of the internally displaced persons residents in famine conditions at that time. Their vulnerability intersects with particular geographic locations and forms of insecure sedentary, rural, and agriculturally based livelihoods, that are the product of unequal social, economic, and political relations. They make the point that drought causes crises in livelihood, but in the Somali region, unequally distributed vulnerability to food insecurity and famine is social and political, not “natural.”

Geographic tags: Somalia, Baidoa, Hudur

Thematic tags: Food Access, Food Security, Political Economy, Marginalization

Majid, Nisar, Khalif Abdirahman, and Shamsa Hassan. *Remittances and Vulnerability in Somalia – Khalif Assessing Sources, Uses and Delivery Mechanisms*. Nairobi, Kenya: Rift Valley Institute, 2018. Retrieved from [https://riftvalley.net/sites/default/files/publication-documents/Remittances%20and%20Vulnerability%20in%20Somalia%20by%20Nisar%20Majid%20-%20RVI%20Briefing%20\(2018\).pdf](https://riftvalley.net/sites/default/files/publication-documents/Remittances%20and%20Vulnerability%20in%20Somalia%20by%20Nisar%20Majid%20-%20RVI%20Briefing%20(2018).pdf).

Summary: The report concludes that remittances play a crucial role in the experience of food security. However, their impact is greatly uneven both regionally and socially, and this bolsters structural and food security inequality patterns. The authors find these financial transfers from the Somali diaspora are a crucial safety net for many Somalis, and when mobilized successfully, they played a key role in communities’ capacity to cope with the 2017 famine. However, the northern states of Somaliland and Puntland receive higher average levels of remittances compared to the southern areas – excluding the cities of Mogadishu and Kismayo. Generally, communities that do not benefit from remittances are found in southern Somalia, and this connects with the larger rural and more marginalized populations found in those areas. Furthermore, the study finds further variations at the clan level between the Ogaden, Reer Hassan, and Rahanweyn, which have implications regarding the level of food security experienced by those groups. For example, during the 2017 famine, both the Reer Hassan and the Ogaden were able to raise considerable funds abroad from their well-established diaspora communities. However, the more rural and agro-pastoralist Rahanweyn were far less successful at raising remittances and had increased food insecurity. This resulted from having a much smaller political profile nationally than the other groups, a smaller and less well-established diaspora, and looser family structures. Overall, the quantity and regularity of ongoing remittances at the regional, clan, and household levels are important contributing factors to financial stability, credit access, and general food security for Somali families, as well as being indicators of the population’s most at-risk during times of extreme food shortages.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Somaliland, Puntland, Mogadishu, Kismayo, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, South West State

Thematic tags: Food Access, Food Security, Resilience, Marginalization, Remittances

Sneyers, Astrid. “Food, Drought and Conflict: Evidence from a Case-Study on Somalia.” *Households in Conflict Network Working Papers* 252 (2017). Retrieved from <https://ideas.repec.org/p/hic/wpaper/252.html>.

Summary: This paper aims at disentangling the mutual link between conflict, drought, and food security in Somalia. The analysis is conducted using various indicators for food security and on different (national and subnational) aggregation levels. Overall, the authors find a positive effect of drought on the percentage of underweight individuals for pastoral livelihoods on the regional level. At the same time, drought seems to have a small linear increasing effect on the ratio of rural populations in stressed, crisis, and emergency food security situations, while there seems to be no significant effect for urban populations. Based on household panel data, a negative effect of drought on non-food expenditures is found as well as a negative effect of conflict on non-food expenditures, confirming that these households buy fewer non-food items when confronted with distressing situations. Furthermore, the authors find an increasing effect of one-sided, intrastate, and internationalized conflict on the percentage of underweight individuals on the regional level. In addition, the authors also find a negative effect of conflict exposure on food expenditures for pastoral (rural) households, in contrast with urban households. This emphasizes the fact that conflict has a more profound effect on the food security of rural households, notwithstanding their functions as food producers. Finally, on the district level, the authors do not find substantial evidence that drought triggers conflict. In contrast, on the household level the authors find strong evidence for this, suggesting that conflict analysis at a lower aggregation level does reveal findings that we may not pick up on at a higher aggregation level.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, Mogadishu, Puntland, Somaliland, South West State

Thematic tags: Food Access, Food Security, Conflict, Drought

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). *Somalia: Shocks, Agricultural Livelihoods, and Food Security*. Rome: FAO, 2021. Retrieved from <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB7641EN>.

Summary: This report shares an analysis of the effects of natural and man-made shocks on Somalia's agri-food system and household access to food. According to respondents, the most-frequently reported shocks affecting households' capacity to access food and income in the three months preceding the survey were sickness or death of household members, high food prices, dry spells and drought, high fuel prices, crop pests and diseases, livestock pests and diseases, and loss of employment. The report also discusses factors limiting food production and availability, including the impact of drought, climate variability, and conflict on livestock and crop production.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Access, Food Security, Risk, Drought, Food Availability, Food Production

FOOD AVAILABILITY

Ali, Abdirahman. *Brokering Trade Routes: The Political Economy of Checkpoints along Somalia's Baidoa Corridor*. Nairobi, Kenya: Rift Valley Institute, 2021. Retrieved from https://riftvalley.net/sites/default/files/publication-documents/Brokering%20Trade%20Routes_Final%20Reduced.pdf.

Summary: This paper discusses the Baidoa corridor, a transport and trade route that connects Somalia's coastal capital, Mogadishu, to Kenya via the border towns of Bula Hawa and Dollow, respectively. The paper discusses the prevalence of checkpoints along this route controlled by a variety of different political and security actors. A growth in the number of competing authorities along the route – federal government, federal member states and al-Shabaab being the most significant – has led to a sharp increase in the costs of transportation of goods along the corridor. Checkpoint taxes now have a greater impact on transport costs than fuel prices, road conditions and the length of the route. Checkpoints not only affect the profits of traders and transporters but distort the geography of trade flows.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Baidoa, Mogadishu, South West State

Thematic tags: Food Availability, Political Economy, Conflict

Famine Early Warning Systems Network. *Somalia Livestock Price Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: FEWS NET, 2023. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-livestock-price-bulletin-may-2023>.

Summary: This Price Bulletin offers a series of visual representations displaying monthly livestock prices during the current marketing year in specific urban centers. It enables users to compare ongoing price patterns with both five-year average prices, which indicate seasonal trends, and prices from the preceding year. Livestock holds a central role in the economic and cultural fabric of the Somali population. This sector contributes to sustenance and income for over 60 percent of the country's inhabitants. Among the notable livestock markets in the Horn of Africa, Burao and Galkayo stand out, especially for the export of sheep and goats from the Somali region of Ethiopia and parts of southern Somalia. These markets play a crucial role as most livestock exports through Berbera and Bosasso seaports pass through or are sourced from here. Burao and Galkayo are pivotal reference points for significant pastoral livelihood areas including Hawd, Sool Plateau, Nugaal Valley, and Adun in the northeast and central regions. Beledweyne connects the southern and central regions of Somalia and serves as the primary supply hub for export cattle through Bosasso port. In the agro-pastoral livelihood zones of southern Somalia, Dinsor, Bardera, and Afmadow assume significance as cattle markets. A substantial number of cattle en route to Garissa, Kenya traverse these markets. Among them, Afmadow holds the distinction of being the largest cattle market in southern Somalia. It acts as a reference market for the expansive cattle belt in the Juba Valley and is a major source of cross-border cattle trade to markets in Kenya, such as Garissa, Mombasa, and Nairobi.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu, Galmudug, Jubaland, Puntland, Somaliland, South West State

Thematic tags: Food Availability, Food Markets, Livestock

Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET). *Somalia Price Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: FEWS NET, 2023. Retrieved from https://fews.net/sites/default/files/documents/reports/PB_SO_Grains_202301.pdf.

Summary: The Price Bulletin provides charts, illustrating monthly prices in selected urban centers in Somalia. The report compares current trends with five-year average prices and prices from the previous year, offering insight into seasonal trends. According to the report, Somalis' primary staple foods are maize, sorghum, rice, and cowpea. Maize and sorghum are preferred in agricultural regions, while rice is more popular in pastoral and urban areas. Cowpea is a crucial part of all households' diets. Key market

centers include Mogadishu, which is the largest market in the country and well-connected to most markets. Baidoa is significant for sorghum production and consumption. Qorioley is known for large maize production. Burao, Galkayo, and Dhusamareb are pastoral regions relying on domestic sorghum purchases and imported rice. Togwajale is a sorghum-producing area with ties to Ethiopian markets. Hargeisa serves as the capital of Somaliland and is vital for livestock trade with Ethiopia. Buale is an essential maize production area in the southern region, supplying nearby markets. El Dhere and Merka are cowpea production regions, serving as principal income sources. Bossasso and Kismayo are port towns and entry points for imports. Beledweyne connects the south and central regions, as well as Ethiopia. Belet Hawa is a significant cross-border market with Kenya.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu, Galmudug, Jubaland, Puntland, Somaliland, South West State, Baidoa, Kismayo

Thematic tags: Food Availability, Food Markets, Maize, Sorghum, Rice, Cowpea, Livestock

Forcier Consulting and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). *Baseline Assessment for the Fish for Nutrition Project*. Hargeisa, Somaliland: Forcier Consulting and GIZ, 2017. Available upon request from the authors.

Summary: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) implemented the Fish for Nutrition Project in Kismayo, Somalia, aiming to improve food and nutrition security for vulnerable populations, including voluntary returnees and internally displaced persons. The project had three main objectives: 1) to raise awareness among food-insecure people about the nutritional benefits of fish consumption, 2) to increase the availability of high-quality fishery products for vulnerable population groups, and 3) to create infrastructural conditions for improved availability and use of nutritionally relevant foods. The baseline assessment, conducted by Forcier Consulting, focuses on the second and third objectives of the project. It found that Kismayo has two main fish markets, with nine fish outlets clustered within them. Fish availability is highly dependent on seasons, leading to price fluctuations and reduced demand from the poor during low seasons. The lack of local fish outlets and cooling storage presents challenges for consumers to access fresh fish. Despite challenges, fish consumption was frequent among most respondents, but there was a belief that IDPs were not accustomed to fish and unaware of its nutritional benefits. Access to health facilities for nutritional counseling was low, but people found the available sites useful. However, only one site had a demo kitchen. Based on the findings, the report recommends focusing project activities on improving the accessibility of fish products through services like fish distribution and enhancing infrastructure and sanitation at local fish markets. Additionally, efforts to improve livelihood opportunities related to the fish sector, such as vocational training in fishing and fish handling techniques, should be considered. Access to nutritional health services should also be improved, possibly through mobile services. Overall, the report highlights opportunities for the Fish and Nutrition Project FNP to make a positive impact on food and nutrition security in Kismayo.

Geographic tags: Kismayo, Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Availability, Food Markets, Displacement, Fisheries, Key Stakeholders

Kularatne, Chandana, Altan Butt, and Muriel Calo. "Food Insecurity in Somalia." In Yang, Fang, Chandana Kularatne, and Rhea Gupta (eds.), *Somalia: Selected Issues*. Washington, D.C.: International

Monetary Fund, 2022.

<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/downloadpdf/journals/002/2022/376/article-A001-en.xml>.

Summary: This report presents an overview of factors affecting both food availability and food access in Somalia. It attributes recent food insecurity in Somalia to a confluence of two shocks: prolonged drought and the impact of the war in Ukraine on global food supply and prices. Additionally, it discusses structural drivers of food insecurity in Somalia, including a chronic food crop deficit, high food consumption expenditure, environmental hazards, political challenges, an infrastructure deficit, and high levels of poverty and inequality. The report then discusses coping strategies used by Somali households in the face of rising food insecurity, including remittances and social protection.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Availability, Food Access, Food Security, Poverty, Resilience, Remittances

Schouten, Peer. *Paying the Price: The Political Economy of Checkpoints in Somalia*. Nairobi, Kenya: Rift Valley Institute, 2022. Retrieved from

https://pure.diiis.dk/ws/files/23114709/Paying_the_Price_Final-DIIS-2.pdf.

Summary: This report explores the political economy of checkpoints in Somalia. The report delves into the significant interconnections between checkpoints, cross-border commerce and state formation in south-central Somalia, focusing in particular on two case studies: the Baidoa corridor and the Garissa corridor. It identifies a total of 204 checkpoints, 23 percent of which are operated by al-Shabaab. It finds that checkpoint taxes make up the biggest part of transport costs and therefore constitute trade barriers. Checkpoints have differential impacts on domestic and cross-border trade, and affect the balance between them. In port cities, for instance, food imported from Southeast Asia may be cheaper than the locally produced equivalent because customs duties are lower than checkpoint taxes along local roads. Checkpoint taxes discriminate against farming produce and other low-value bulk cargo, with checkpoint taxes along agricultural feeder roads three times higher per ton than checkpoint taxes for imported manufactured goods and commodities destined for exports. In this way, checkpoints are implicated in a wealth transfer from already marginal and vulnerable populations in farming areas towards well-connected traders and checkpoint operators.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Afgoye, Baidoa, Kismayo, Mogadishu, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, South West State

Thematic tags: Food Availability, Food Markets, Marginalization, Risk

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). *Cereal Supply and Demand Balances for Sub-Saharan African Countries – Situation as of February 2023*. Rome: FAO, 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc4668en>.

Summary: This report presents updated cereal supply and demand balances for all sub-Saharan African countries as of February 2023. It is currently published three times a year. Somalia's vulnerability to international crop prices is demonstrated by the report, with the country's total internal cereal production in 2022/2023 being 10% of what the country imports. The current import requirements are 124% of the average from the last five years. This also means at least 92% of Somalia's cereal needs will be distributed via various import and internal food supply chain networks with their politically associated profit-generating and taxation mechanisms.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Availability, Food Markets, Food Production, Food Security, Rice, Maize, Sorghum

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. *Cereal Supply and Demand Balances for Sub-Saharan African Countries – Situation as of June 2023*. Rome: FAO, 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc7114en>.

Summary: This report presents updated cereal supply and demand balances for all sub-Saharan African countries as of June 2023. It is currently published three times a year. As with the February 2023 report cited above, in June 2023, Somalia's total internal cereal production was around 10% of what the country imports. The report further updates the February 2023 version with current import requirements.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Food Availability, Food Markets, Food Production, Food Security, Rice, Maize, Sorghum

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. *GIEWS - Global Information and Early Warning System: Country Briefs: Somalia*. Rome: FAO, 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=SOM>.

Summary: The Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) briefs from the FAO provide up-to-date food security information on monitored countries including Somalia. The current issue reports that the projected famine for the rural communities in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts and among internally displaced persons in Baidoa town and Mogadishu has been largely averted due to scaled-up humanitarian assistance. However, it also states 6.5 million people across Somalia are expected to face acute food insecurity during the same period, with this representing an increase of 65% compared to the previous year. One of the most significant causes has been the prolonged drought affecting both livestock and agricultural production. With the poor performance of seasonal rains from 2020, it is estimated 3.8 million heads of livestock have perished, and current stocks are 30%-70% below average. Cereal harvests have also been severely affected, with 2022 production estimated at 138,000 tons – the second lowest ever recorded. Nonetheless, the first harvest of 2023 performed better than expected, and the agricultural results from the recent Gu rainy season will be seen later in the year. Prices of locally produced cereals and livestock were generally lower since their peak a year earlier.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu, Baidoa

Thematic tags: Food Availability, Food Security, Health and Nutrition, Drought, Maize, Sorghum, Rice, Livestock

World Food Program. *Joint Markets and Supply Chain Update*. Mogadishu, Somalia: World Food Program, 2023. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-joint-markets-and-supply-chain-update-13-20-may-2023>.

Summary: The report provides a comprehensive overview of the price fluctuations observed for both food and non-food items during the month of May 2023. In most states in Somalia, food and non-food prices remained stable, with some exceptions showing mild to high changes. Local cereals like white

maize and red sorghum had relatively stable prices or experienced mild changes. Prices of imported food items were generally stable, except in Hirshabelle and Puntland, where floods and conflict led to price increases. Camel milk prices decreased in Mogadishu and Somaliland due to increased supply from improved water and pasture availability during the Gu rains. Local quality goat prices remained stable in most states, except for a mild drop in Puntland and a slight increase in the Southwest state, both attributed to improved water and pasture availability. Diesel prices were stable in most regions, except for increases in Southwest and Puntland. Labor wage rates remained steady across all states. Overall, essential food items were sufficiently available in the monitored markets to meet demand, and supply chain resilience was high in most regions, with the exception of flood-affected districts where roads were impassable. Trade and transportation infrastructure were active, but clashes in Laascaanood and closures of specific supply corridors posed challenges. Consumers had access to a broad range of food items, including milk, meat, fish products, fresh fruits, and vegetables.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu, Galmudug, Jubaland, Puntland, Somaliland, South West State

Thematic tags: Food Availability, Food Markets, Food Production, Livestock, Maize, Sorghum, Rice

GENDER AND YOUTH

Ali, Hussein Yusuf. *A Call for Inclusive Entrepreneurship in Somalia: Opportunities and Barriers for Female Entrepreneurs in Accessing Micro-Finance*. Garowe, Somalia: Somali Institute for Development Research and Analysis (SIDRA), 2019. Retrieved from https://sidrainstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/SIDRA_ADRA_Policy-Brief_Women-Entrepreneurship_Dec-2019.pdf-2-1.pdf.

Summary: This report discusses the integral role played by Somali women in the economic and trade development of the country. It discusses regulatory frameworks in place that seek to safeguard the interests of Somali women, highlighting existing challenges, limits to enforcement, and mitigation strategies. The report analyzes opportunities available for female entrepreneurship in Somalia, support from the corporate finance sector, success stories, and challenges facing women entrepreneurs.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Gender, Marginalization, Key Stakeholders

El-Bushra, Judy, Judith Gardner and Adan Abokor. "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Young Somali Men Today." In *War and Peace in Somalia: National Grievances, Local Conflict and al-Shabaab*, edited by Michael Keating and Matt Waldman, 275-284. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. Retrieved from <https://academic.oup.com/book/35091>.

Summary: This qualitative study with young men from across Somalia and Somaliland researches the gendered ideal they are held up against within Somali society, their relationship with clan structures, and how this relates to their experience of violence and clan war. The paper argues the life choices and horizons of contemporary Somali male youth are limited due to militarization, political marginalization, and their low status within traditional forms of authority. The study finds that while young men are the primary perpetrators and victims of violence, many are against involvement, with a combination of their low status, desperation, and energy being exploited for political ends. The research finds social

imaginaries of the masculine ideal and the necessity of clan for an ordinary person's social well-being and advancement play critical roles in young males accepting pathways into violent clan-based conflicts. Clan identity also plays a role in deciding which men may be recruited for violence, with males from more marginalized groups being preferred if possible. Overall, Somali male youth emerge as vulnerable to being violently misused for the political purposes of older more powerful males, and consequently, their role in peace processes should be encouraged.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Youth, Gender, Conflict, Clan Dynamics

Gardner, Judith and Life and Peace Institute. "Beyond Principles: The Inclusion of Somali Women in Peacemaking." In *War and Peace in Somalia: National Grievances, Local Conflict and al-Shabaab*, edited by Michael Keating and Matt Waldman, 239-250. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. <https://academic.oup.com/book/35091>.

Summary: This qualitative study in Kismayo provides interview data on the active roles of women in fostering and enacting both violence and peace in the region's clan conflicts. The research questions generalized normative perceptions of the gendered nature of war and peace, and by doing so, emphasize the necessity of ensuring substantive female participation at all levels of Somali peace work. The research finds women have played active conflict roles in terms of mobilizing financial resources; mobilizing, humiliating, and motivating menfolk into fighting; caring for and protecting clansmen from enemies; logistical support covering both food and weapons supplies; forms of intelligence; participating as fighters or lone combatants; and contributing to the strategies of larger attacks. In terms of peace, females again directly influence their immediate menfolk over the need to stop fighting; they network and mobilize women-to-women talks across clan lines; fundraise and mobilize resources needed for peace; take direct action to stop violence; organize demonstrations for peace; lobby elders; act as peace envoys for men across clan lines; collect intelligence; and organize and provide the logistics for peace meetings. The study references how political economy analysis reveals the potency of clannism in driving conflict in southern Somalia, but how this study sheds light on the gendered person-to-person dynamics of that clannism. Ultimately, women are instrumental to its "success," while also suffering its terrible consequences.

Geographic tags: Kismayo, Jubaland, Somalia

Thematic tags: Gender, Conflict, Clan Dynamics

Hammer, Lucia C., Eliana Rubiano-Matulevich, and Julieth Santamaria. "Differences in Household Composition: Hidden Dimensions of Poverty and Displacement in Somalia." *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper Series* 9818 (2021). Retrieved from https://www.jointdatacenter.org/literature_review/differences-in-household-composition-hidden-dimensions-of-poverty-and-displacement-in-somalia.

Summary: This paper examines the role of gender-based disadvantage in poverty rates among internally displaced people (IDPs) and non-displaced people in Somalia. The analysis relies on data from the 2017-18 Somalia High-Frequency Survey. The paper finds that poverty rates are high in Somalia, and highest among IDPs. Male-headed households are poorer than female-headed households in both displaced and non-displaced populations. This result is driven by the large gender gap in poverty among

IDPs (11-14 percentage points), as well as the smaller gender gap in poverty among the non-displaced (3 percentage points). Demographic composition of the household is strongly associated with poverty rates for IDPs but not for non-IDPs—suggesting that caregiving responsibilities impact poverty risk for IDP households. Lastly, having more income earners reduces poverty risk for all households.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Gender and Youth, Poverty, Displacement

International Labor Organization. *Institutional and Policy Assessment of Factors Affecting Women Entrepreneurs in Micro and Small Enterprises in Hargeisa and Mogadishu*. Geneva, Switzerland: International Labour Organization, 2013. Retrieved from https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-abidjan/---sro-addis_ababa/documents/genericdocument/wcms_230693.pdf.

Summary: This report discusses issues affecting women entrepreneurs in micro and small enterprises in Hargeisa and Mogadishu. It addresses the effects of the social, cultural and business environment on women in business, identifies gaps and challenges and makes appropriate recommendations. The study finds that women entrepreneurs have limited entrepreneurial capacity and resources for starting up and sustaining business enterprises. A major financial challenge was lack of credit, and numerous non-financial challenges were also faced including challenges with business premises, insecurity, obtaining licenses, accessing raw materials, and paying electricity fees.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu

Thematic tags: Gender, Marginalization

International Labour Organization. *Sectoral Assessment of Women's Entrepreneurship Development in the Agriculture and Renewable Energy Sectors in Somalia*. Geneva, Switzerland: International Labour Organization, 2020. Retrieved from https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---ifp_seed/documents/publication/wcms_757371.pdf.

Summary: This report presents the results of an assessment that analyzed framework conditions and identified the most conducive value chains for women's entrepreneurship development in the agriculture and renewable energy sectors. The research aimed to identify value chains conducive to the empowerment of women entrepreneurs in Mogadishu and Garowe, in order to advance representation and meaningful participation of Somali women entrepreneurs in their business environment, and to enhance their contribution to socioeconomic growth. It analyzes opportunities for inclusive growth in the livestock, crops, and fisheries sectors, among other areas. Based on the analysis, the assessment proposed recommendations to address gaps at the policy level and market level, including improving access to gender-sensitive financial and business development services, improving access to markets and technology, improving representation of women entrepreneurs in policy dialogue, and strengthening regulatory systems and policy leadership.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu

Thematic tags: Gender, Food Production, Key Stakeholders

Ochiltree, Kasey, and Iulia Andreea Toma. *Gender Analysis of the Impact of Recent Humanitarian Crises on Women, Men, Girls, and Boys in Puntland State in Somalia*. Mogadishu, Somalia: Oxfam, 2021. Retrieved from <https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/handle/10546/621186>.

Summary: This study investigates the gender impacts of recent humanitarian crises on populations in Puntland State. Authors find that women bear a greater burden of household responsibilities, but the division of labor in IDP communities has seen some shifts. Within IDP camps, both men and women engage in various labor activities, with men involved in fishing, pottery, and hard labor, while women take up cleaning services, garbage collection for money, and selling products in local markets. However, barriers persist for women's economic empowerment, including traditional beliefs dictating limited access to job opportunities and challenges in obtaining wider leadership roles. Access to clean water is lacking in all communities, especially for IDPs who face safety concerns related to water and latrine facilities. Regular food shortages force families to reduce their daily intake. The economic strain on households has worsened due to an increase in monetary inflation and reduced work opportunities. COVID-19 has added another layer of strain, impacting women disproportionately, as they report receiving less work and experiencing price increases for key goods like firewood. Import and export activities suspension during the pandemic disrupted value chains, particularly for frankincense, further affecting women. In Bariga Bosasso, job opportunities and financial assistance for basic household needs are scarce. Host communities, particularly men, highlight the devastation caused by natural hazards like flooding, drought, and locusts, which destroyed farms, livestock, pastures, and water sources. Community members expressed the desire to expand their skillsets through free formal education, but accessing such education remains a challenge, despite their existing experience in various vocational skills. Radios and hotlines serve as key information-sharing channels among IDP communities. Women in host communities also value radio, phone calls, and hotlines for receiving information, though access to these resources is less available for them compared to men. The study found that 88% of women aged 15-49 do not have weekly access to newspapers, radio, or television. Both men and women, along with girls and boys, lack awareness of opportunities to engage with humanitarian organizations and access support.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Gender, Youth, Displacement

United Nations Women and Horn of Africa Consultants Firm. *Gender, Climate and Conflict Analysis in Somalia and Assessment of Opportunities for Climate Agriculture and Livelihood Opportunities for Crisis-affected and At-risk Women in Somalia*. Mogadishu, Somalia: UN Women, 2022. Retrieved from <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/04/gender-climate-and-conflict-analysis-in-somalia-and-assessment-of-opportunities-for-climate-smart-agriculture-and-livelihood-opportunities-for-crisis-affected-and-at-risk-women-in-somalia>.

Summary: UN Women conducted this assessment to examine the opportunities for climate-smart agriculture and livelihood opportunities for crisis-affected and at-risk women in select locations in Somalia. Just over 50% of the respondents report having refugee or IDP status, and the report details a series of structural (socio-political) disparities that disproportionately affect the female respondents. Somalia is ranked as one of the most unequal countries in the world in terms of gender equality. Literacy rates are reported at 25.8% for females in the country (36% for males), and 59.7% of the study's female respondents reported having no formal education, with the highest numbers coming from those in IDP

camps. The respondents reported conflict over resources as being the most common conflict experienced, followed by political and clan conflicts. Many of the women living in IDP camps were either widowed, divorced, or separated from their partners. Female respondents reported less access to arable land than males, and the majority were unable to practice any form of agriculture. The majority report generating income from unskilled labor, including domestic work, then livestock rearing, and petty trading. The majority had no access to credit facilities, with many simply not qualifying. These women report a lack of financial literacy, and disqualifications based on gender factors, including having no male guarantor, as important reasons for this. Finally, for those who are practicing forms of agriculture, the majority do not have the funds to purchase herbicide or fertilizer, they practice manual farming, and a sizable minority do not irrigate their lands. Overall, the respondents' livelihood opportunities are negatively impacted and compounded by a whole ecosystem of social, political, and economic inequalities, making them far more vulnerable to income and food insecurity.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Kismayo, Baidoa, Hudur, Afgoye, Jowhar

Thematic tags: Gender, Displacement, Resilience, Conflict, Marginalization

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Di Marcantonio, Federica, Estefania Custodio, and Yusuf Abukar. "Child Dietary Diversity and Associated Factors Among Children in Somalian [sic] IDP Camps." *Food and Nutrition Bulletin* 41, no. 1 (2020): 61-76. Retrieved from <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0379572119861000>.

Summary: This study aims to evaluate dietary diversity and its influencing factors in children aged 6 to 23 months within Somali IDP camps. The researchers conducted a cross-sectional survey in 11 IDP camps in June 2014 and June 2015, involving 3188 children. Child diets were assessed through food frequency questionnaires, and dietary diversity was measured using the minimum child dietary diversity (MDDC) indicator. Multivariable logistic regression models were employed to identify factors linked to children's dietary diversity. The study also compared two models using household dietary diversity score (HDDS) and food consumption score (FCS) as proxies for food security. Results indicate that only 15% of children in IDP camps met the minimum dietary diversity criteria. The study shows that food security indicators are strongly associated with MDDC, with HDDS performing better than FCS. Moreover, factors like women as key household decision-makers, settlement duration, women's physiological condition, frequency of milk feeding to children, toilet type, and measles vaccination are positively linked to MDDC. According to the findings, to improve the variety of diets among children in IDP camps, it is advised that food security interventions should include measures that empower women, incorporate comprehensive nutrition education involving men, and focus on children not accompanied by pregnant or lactating women. Additionally, these interventions should extend beyond the initial months after families' arrival.

Geographic tags: Afgoye, Baidoa, Berdale, Hudur, Jowhar, Kismayo, Mogadishu, Somalia

Thematic tags: Health and Nutrition, Food Security, Displacement, Water and Sanitation

Directorate of National Statistics, Federal Government of Somalia. *The Somali Health and Demographic Survey 2020*. Mogadishu, Somalia: Federal Government of Somalia, 2020. Retrieved from https://somalia.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/FINAL%20SHDS%20Report%202020_V7_0.pdf.

Summary: This report presents the results of a health and demographic survey of more than 100,000 households in Somalia. The report sheds light on the lives and needs of nomadic communities and people living in rural and urban households. It includes information on household and housing characteristics, respondent education and livelihoods, fertility and childbirth, maternal and newborn health, child health, child nutrition and feeding practices, nutritional status of women of childbearing age, gender-based violence, women's empowerment, health, and health expenditure.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, South West State

Thematic tags: Health and Nutrition, Gender, Resilience

Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit. *Somalia Food Security and Nutrition Outcomes and Projections (March-June 2023)*. Mogadishu, Somalia: FSNAU, 2023. Retrieved from <http://fsnau.org/downloads/Somalia-Multi-Partner-Technical-Release-on-the-March-2023-Follow-up-Assessment-Results-25-Apr-2023.pdf>.

Summary: This is a technical release by the FSNAU reporting on nutrition and food security outcomes and projections throughout the first half of 2023. In January 2023, three population groups were identified as facing a risk of famine between April and June 2023. These were Mogadishu internally displaced persons (IDPs), Baidoa IDPs, and Burhakaba district agropastoral groups. A further study was conducted with these groups and the report states acute malnutrition remains critical among 20.2% of Mogadishu IDPs, 15.3% of Baidoa IDPs, and 15.3% of the agropastoral populations in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts. Among these groups, morbidity rates remain high at 33.7% for Mogadishu IDPs, 30.7% for Baidoa IDPs, and 27.5% for Baidoa and Burhakaba district agropastoral populations. Furthermore, acute malnutrition among women of childbearing age is considered critical among IDPs in Baidoa and serious among agropastoral populations in Baidoa and Burhakaba. The major contributing factors to this acute malnutrition include high morbidity, limited access to milk, general food insecurity, poor access to safe water and sanitation, and low vaccination and Vitamin A supplementation coverage. Furthermore, the report states the main drivers of acute food insecurity are persistent drought, insecurity and conflict, and high food prices. In this regard, the cost of the minimum food expenditure basket has declined by 6-10% over the last 6 months, yet it is still 32-39% higher than the five-year average. Furthermore, there has been a significant influx of new arrivals in IDP settlements over the last three months – 41% in Mogadishu and 31% in Baidoa. Nonetheless, humanitarian aid has increased and will continue to increase throughout the year to these groups, with 27% of Mogadishu IDPs, 79% of Baidoa IDPs, and 95% of Baidoa and Burhakaba district agropastoral populations reached.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu, Baidoa

Thematic tags: Health and Nutrition, Food Security, Health and Nutrition, Displacement, Drought

Forcier Consulting and Trôcaire. *Barriers Analysis for Care of Malnourished Children*. Hargeisa, Somaliland: Forcier Consulting and Trôcaire, 2017. Available upon request from the authors.

Summary: The Gedo region in Somalia has been severely affected by the 2017 drought, resulting in approximately 200,000 malnourished children. Trôcaire, an Irish non-governmental organization and development agency, operates three nutrition stabilization centers in Gedo to address this issue. However, they noticed a trend where mothers bring their children to these centers, while fathers are rarely involved. To better understand this trend and identify barriers to men's involvement in nutritional

care, Tròcaire commissioned a study involving focus group discussions and interviews with government officials, fathers (both involved and uninvolved), male and female nutrition staff, and parents from the community. The key findings reveal that men's involvement is conditionally approved within the communities. Fathers are generally seen positively when their involvement is justified, such as when the mother is ill or occupied. Mothers, however, showed some disapproval, possibly indicating a desire to maintain autonomy over their role in childcare. Male nutrition staff members also expressed disapproval through negative comments about fathers' caregiving abilities. Based on these findings, several recommendations were made to Tròcaire. These include raising awareness among mothers about the benefits of father participation in their child's care to address perceptions of encroachment on maternal roles; partnering with religious leaders to dispel misconceptions that religion prohibits men from taking their children to the nutrition centers; providing awareness training for nutrition staff to emphasize the importance of male involvement in their child's care; conducting educational sessions for men to highlight the unconditional benefits of their participation, regardless of the mother's capacity to care for the child. Overall, the study seeks to promote men's engagement in nutritional care and address potential cultural and social barriers to ensure better support for malnourished children in the Gedo region.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Health and Nutrition, Gender

Gele, A. "Challenges Facing the Health System in Somalia and Implications for Achieving the SDGs." *European Journal of Public Health* 30, no. 5 (2020). Retrieved from https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/article/30/Supplement_5/ckaa165.1147/5916254.

Summary: This paper discusses the progress made and significant challenges remaining in both the provision of health services and enabling access to the services. The existing health system is essentially privatized, and it is confined to major towns, leaving the poor majority, in the rural areas, out of affordable health care. Moreover, the national health system is fragmented, and the absence of unified health system governance has affected the capacity of national authorities to regulate the private sector and to partner with NGOs to deliver services to remote areas. Consequently, less than 30% of the Somali population have access to health services. The progress, and also the setbacks, of the health sector has been obscured by lack of reliable data at regional and national level. The absence of research institutions and human resources in research are among the obstacles to implementing evidence-based health interventions and the subsequent quality of health policy and practices. Investing in health research is a prerequisite for evidence-based health interventions that not only save lives, but also are crucial investments in the wider economy and development of the country.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Health and Nutrition, Gender

Human Appeal Somalia. *WASH Baseline Report*. Mogadishu, Somalia: Human Appeal Somalia, 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/somalia/assessment/wash-baseline-report>.

Summary: In Somalia, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) pose challenges, especially in IDP settlements where limited access to these facilities is aggravated by high camp populations. A baseline

survey by Human Appeal Somalia in September-October 2017 assessed safe water and sanitation access, along with hygiene knowledge, attitudes, and practices in Kahda and Daynile districts of Banadir region. Employing cross-sectional design and quantitative methods, the survey gathered data from 100 randomly selected households in IDP camps. Survey findings indicate that 96% lack household latrines, leading to open defecation and disease risks, especially among children under 5 (28% girls, 23% boys). Handwashing practices were poor, with 73% lacking soap, though many recognized its importance. Water was primarily sourced from pipe systems, yet 79% didn't treat it, citing cost and time constraints. Malaria and diarrhea affected 53%, mainly children under 5 and pregnant women (43%). Around 69% were unaware of nearby health facilities, resorting to traditional and home remedies. The report underscores pressing WASH challenges in Somalia's IDP settlements, highlighting the need for awareness campaigns, better hygiene practices, and improved access to safe water and sanitation facilities.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu

Thematic tags: Health and Nutrition, Displacement, Water and Sanitation

Jayte, Mohamed, and Maryan Dahir. "Incidence of Acute Watery Diarrhea among Internally Displaced People in Burhakaba Camps, Bay Region, Somalia." *medRxiv* (2023). Retrieved from <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2023.09.10.23295320v1>.

Summary: Acute watery diarrhea (AWD) is a major public health issue among internally displaced persons in Somalia due to inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and services, in crowded camps. This study aimed to determine the incidence and associated factors of AWD in IDP camps in Burhakaba, Bay region. The overall AWD incidence was 16.7%. Children under 5 had the highest incidence, at 9.8% among under 1 year and 8.9% among 1-5 years. Use of open wells, lack of latrines, poor hand-washing practices, and reduced food intake were significantly associated with higher AWD risk.

Geographic tags: Somalia, South West State

Thematic tags: Health and Nutrition, Displacement, Water and Sanitation

Kalid, Mohamed, et al. "Infant and Young Child Nutritional Status and Their Caregivers' Feeding Knowledge and Hygiene Practices in Internally Displaced Person Camps, Somalia." *BMC Nutrition* 5, no. 1 (2019): 1-11. Retrieved from <https://bmcnutr.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40795-019-0325-4>.

Summary: With the aim of creating an educational program aimed at caregivers of children aged 6 to 59 months residing in internally displaced persons camps in Somalia, this study pursued a two-fold objective. Firstly, it aimed to assess the nutritional status of children aged 6–59 months participating in a nutrition initiative provided by Save the Children in 2017 within these camps. Secondly, the study aimed to pinpoint deficiencies in caregivers' hygiene and feeding practices. The study encompassed 1655 households, where caregivers for 2370 children aged 6 to 59 months, enrolled in the nutrition program by Save the Children, responded to a modified questionnaire concerning hygiene and feeding practices. Concurrently, the study conducted naturalistic observations of caregivers' hygiene behaviors based on established questionnaire criteria. Each child underwent anthropometric mid-upper arm circumference measurements for classifying Moderate Acute Malnutrition, Severe Acute Malnutrition, and Global Acute Malnutrition. The findings revealed the presence of Severe (12.1%) and Global Acute (19.9%)

Malnutrition among children involved in the nutrition program, occurring more frequently in the 6–24 month age bracket in comparison to the 25–59 month age group. Moreover, household practices generally fell below the standards of hygiene. Additionally, caregivers exhibited inadequate knowledge about breastfeeding advantages and complementary foods. In conclusion, the authors suggest that child malnutrition may be linked to gaps in caregivers' knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding hygiene and infant feeding. Recognizing these gaps could aid in shaping future educational programs tailored to caregivers, particularly in high-risk population segments.

Geographic tags: Baidoa, Mogadishu, Somalia

Thematic tags: Health and Nutrition, Displacement

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). *Somalia WASH Profile*. Mogadishu, Somalia: UNICEF, 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/somalia/media/1251/file/Somalia-wash-profile-February-2020.pdf>.

Summary: This report provides an overview of the WASH sector in Somalia. Access to safe water is limited, with only 52% having basic water supply, particularly low in rural areas at 28% and higher in urban areas at 83%. Reports indicate that 40% of water sources are non-functional due to weak management models, high operational costs, and technical limitations. Groundwater, the primary source (80%) of domestic supply, is hindered by deep water tables (100 to 300 meters) and poor water quality due to high salinity. Shabelle and Juba Rivers are the only consistent surface water sources. Access to sanitation facilities is similarly low, with only 38% having basic sanitation, 20% in rural areas, and 61% in urban areas. Open defecation rates are high, especially in rural areas (49%). According to the findings, the WASH sector in Somalia faces resource deficiencies in terms of personnel, funding, and logistics. Capacity gaps exist in human resources and management, with overlapping roles across government bodies. The lack of harmonized legal, regulatory, and policy frameworks compounds the issue, as policies remain in draft form and incongruent with implementation and monitoring frameworks.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Health and Nutrition, Water and Sanitation

RESILIENCE

Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS) Consortium. *Building Resilient Communities in Somalia: Phase 2*. Mogadishu, Somalia: BRCiS, 2022. Retrieved from <https://www.nrc.no/globalassets/pdf/reports/brcis-phase-2/brcis-phase-2.pdf>.

Summary: BRCiS interventions balance short-term humanitarian aid with efforts to increase resilience and lift people out of poverty in the longer term by supporting investments in community leadership and social capital, early warning and action, livelihoods, and basic services. This report presents the final evaluation of phase 2 of BRCiS. It finds that there was an initial increase in resilience among BRCiS households, but the prolonged drought subsequently caused a decline in the retained resilience measures. Multiple drivers, including access to basic services, assets, and social safety net drivers, drove changes in resilience measured through indicators such as access to water during the dry season, food security, self-reported recovery from shocks, reduced negative coping strategies, social capital and collective action, and ability to recover from health-related shocks.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu, Galmudug, Jubaland, South West State

Thematic tags: Resilience, Food Security, Gender, Youth, Marginalization, Water and Sanitation, Food Access, Poverty, Key Stakeholders

Catley, Andy, Jeremy Lind, and Ian Scoones (eds.). *Pastoralism and Development in Africa: Dynamic Change at the Margins*. New York: Routledge, 2013. Retrieved from https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/oa-edit/10.4324/9780203105979/pastoralism-development-africa-andy-catley-ian-scoones-jeremy-lind?_ga=492960786.1695927154.

Summary: This book addresses some of the recurrent misunderstandings about pastoral livelihoods, highlighting the particular features of pastoral resource and land management strategies, commercialization and marketing options, as well as wider livelihood dilemmas in the drylands. It highlights that pastoralists—people who gain a substantial portion of their livelihood from livestock, and who have for centuries struggled with drought, conflict, and famine—are resourceful, entrepreneurial, and innovative peoples by necessity. The book argues that there is much to be learned from development successes and pathways at “the margins,” which involves cooperation and networking across social and ecological borders, adaptation, innovation, and resilience. Of particular interest to the situation in Somalia are chapters on commercialization, growth, and destitution in pastoral areas; pastoralist conflict; and alternative livelihoods in pastoral areas.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Africa

Thematic tags: Resilience, Marginalization, Food Security, Conflict

Development Initiatives. *Towards an Improved Understanding of Vulnerability and Resilience in Somalia*. Bristol, United Kingdom: Development Initiatives, 2019. Retrieved from <https://devinit.org/resources/vulnerability-resilience-somalia/>.

Summary: This paper investigates the response and survival strategies adopted by various households during the period of 2011-2016, as well as the drivers of marginalization and exclusion. The influence of external actors on coping strategies and the effectiveness of these strategies are also explored. The study reveals that while many Somalis experienced increased vulnerability, certain already powerful groups further consolidated their influence, especially through access and control of humanitarian assistance and limited natural resources. During the 2016 famine, people were displaced for shorter durations than in 2011, but IDPs faced challenges due to the loss of social networks. IDPs relied on three types of coping strategies: psychological and attitudinal, behavioral, and social and organizational approaches, which varied by age and gender. Younger women engaged more in income-generating activities, while younger men either migrated to urban areas or joined armed groups. Strong social connections and participation in clan activities were found to significantly impact resilience, enabling the sharing of critical tangible resources, particularly food, during and after each crisis. Social networks facilitated asset-sharing among families, offering protection against attacks. Remittances played a critical role in sustaining families and communities, contributing to asset-building. Women who received remittances invested in nutrition, health, and education, leading to increased diversification of skills, education, and employment opportunities. Overall, households employed various strategies at different stages and situations, depending on their location (urban or rural) and livelihood context. Coping strategies emphasizing social connectedness were found to be most effective during both the 2011 and 2016 crises. These strategies

involved borrowing food, relying on help from friends, and depending on remittances from urban areas or the diaspora.

Geographic tags: Kismayo, Baidoa, Somalia

Thematic tags: Resilience, Displacement, Gender, Marginalization, Food Access, Remittances

Elsamahi, Maha, Geoffrey Ochieng, and Claire Bedelian. *Coping with the Drought Crisis in Somalia: Formative Research Findings from the Resilience Population Measurement (RPM) Project*. Mogadishu, Somalia: Mercy Corps and ACDI/VOCA, 2023. Retrieved from <https://dldocs.mercycorps.org/CopingwithDroughtCrisisSomaliaRPMresearch.pdf>.

Summary: The Somalia Resilience Population Measurement Activity has conducted qualitative and quantitative data collection in response to the ongoing drought to better understand if and how households are coping during the crisis. The research finds that the failed rainy seasons have produced acute impacts on households' livelihoods, food security, and health outcomes. Looking at positive deviant households, the research found that while they were equally impacted by the severity of the drought, their effective use of coping and resilience strategies allowed them to withstand its ramifications for much longer. For example, positive deviant households exhibited higher levels of food security relative to typical households, with adults and children being more likely to have eaten at least two meals a day. Positive deviant households rated access to credit and borrowing and having multiple sources of income—including access to casual labor opportunities—as the most important capacities when it came to coping. The research also examines the role of social networks in coping with drought and the psychosocial determinants of household resilience against shocks.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu, Jubaland, South West State

Thematic tags: Resilience, Food Security, Health and Nutrition, Drought, Key Stakeholders

Elsamahi, Maha, J. Kim, and Jill Scantlan. *Resilience in Somalia and Opportunities for Measurement Innovation for the Resilience Population-level Measurement Activity*. Mogadishu, Somalia: Mercy Corps and ACDI/VOCA, 2022. Retrieved from <https://dldocs.mercycorps.org/ResilienceInSomaliaMeasurementInnovationRPM.pdf>.

Summary: This study sought to understand the resilience capacities that “matter” in Somalia and learn from previous efforts to measure resilience in Somalia. The authors find that key resilience capacities include social connectedness, informal social safety nets, access to services, livelihood adaptations, and income diversification. The interaction of these factors with household resilience is discussed.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu, Jubaland, South West State

Thematic tags: Resilience, Key Stakeholders

Karamba, Wendy. “Improving Access to Jobs for the Poor and Vulnerable in Somalia.” Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2021. Retrieved from <https://elibrary.worldbank.org/doi/abs/10.1596/34983>.

Summary: Jobs are vital for individuals to work their way out of poverty and for promoting shared prosperity. Decent jobs are central to poverty reduction, and have far reaching implications for stability

and security, empowerment, and household resilience. Central to any efforts to curb poverty is the creation of enough decent jobs to absorb workers, especially youth. Youth represent an integral part of the economically productive population, possessing many years of productive life before them. The youth bulge and demographic expansion in Somalia suggest a pressing need to create jobs for its youth while equipping future workers with the right set of skills. This report examines the profile of Somali household workers, and identifies job characteristics and constraints for creating more and inclusive jobs. The study also evaluates youth employment, patterns of school-to-work transitions, and how well the Somali educational system prepares young people for the job market.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Resilience, Poverty, Gender and Youth

LaGuardia, Dorian, Alex Lawrence-Archer, and Hana Abukar. *Monitoring and Evaluation for the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) Somalia 2013-2017 Humanitarian Program*. Mogadishu, Somalia: UKAID, 2019. Retrieved from <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d0dee49c9ddd900015bd2e7/t/5d546bf4cdfbea0001938821/1565813754890/DFID--Somalia--Impact+Evaluation--Final+Report--QA+FINAL.pdf>.

Summary: This report presents an impact evaluation of the DFID 2013-2017 Somalia humanitarian program. It demonstrates that the program was highly successful, notably in averting the 2017 famine and enabling communities to bounce back to their pre-crisis conditions within a year after the crisis reached its highest point. Remarkably, despite numerous repeated shocks and the 2017 food security crisis, there was little change in food security outcome indicators over the three-year period. This result is particularly noteworthy considering the high vulnerability rates and repeated shocks experienced in the region. Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS) households, in particular, demonstrated resilience by bouncing back to levels above baseline food consumption scores after a slight decline during the third survey in early 2017. They coped with shocks differently, resorting to fewer negative coping strategies and exhibiting a more positive outlook on their crisis management. BRCiS-supported households had more choices and coping mechanisms, which contributed to their overall positive well-being and self-concept, even though they consumed less during the 2017 crisis. They reported relying more on family and community support compared to comparison sites. Surprisingly, counterfactual households also exhibited robust recovery due to informal social support and social capital networks, despite not receiving aid from actors for years or at all. These informal mechanisms bolstered their resilience despite being excluded from assistance. The report emphasized the importance of multi-year programming to develop innovative approaches to building resilience, which may require adaptations and refinements over time. Regarding measurement considerations, the evaluation demonstrated the effectiveness of interventions, but it lacked detailed insights into the “how” and “why.” The recommendation is to consider incorporating novel proxy indicators in forthcoming evaluations to more thoroughly gauge resilience. Additionally, the report advises to analyze the interplay of interventions that result in varied outcomes. New indicators could focus on how aid facilitates positive choices in the face of shocks and explore the links between resilience programming and the humanitarian-development nexus.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Resilience, Food Aid, Food Security, Food Access, Key Stakeholders

Lwanga-Ntale, Charles, Boniface O. Owino. "Understanding Vulnerability and Resilience in Somalia." *Jàmbá: Journal of Disaster Risk Studies* 12, no. 1 (2020): 1-9. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7768599/>.

Summary: This study delves into the responses and management strategies employed by different populations in the face of recurring shocks in Somalia. The research explores the factors that drive marginalization and the role played by external stakeholders. Specifically, the authors compare households' experiences during the 2011 crisis and the 2016 period. The findings reveal that households' choice of coping strategies is influenced by their resource endowments. Many households rely on social and organizational coping mechanisms, divesting non-essential domestic assets, and diversifying income generation and food production strategies. Recurrent droughts exacerbate food insecurity, but in 2016, hazards were addressed differently compared to 2011. There were increased investments in drought mitigation and planning efforts, particularly at the national and regional levels. Following the 2011 famine, households started keeping dry rations for difficult times and diversified their sources of income. Non-governmental organizations and development agencies scaled up support for small businesses and vocational training due to the challenges in accessing assistance during the 2011 insecurity. Additionally, the Somali government's stronger and better-coordinated leadership in 2016 addressed key drivers of hazards and stresses, such as deforestation linked to charcoal production. Three main factors enabled communities to withstand recurrent shocks: Firstly, social connectedness and effective utilization of remittances facilitated the development of risk-sharing mechanisms within communities. Secondly, households diversified their sources of income and acquired new livelihood skills. Lastly, investments in social protection mechanisms prior to 2016 paid off, and improved coordination and complementary services facilitated better utilization of cash transfer instruments.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Resilience, Food Security, Marginalization, Remittances

Maxwell, Daniel, Nisar Majid, Guhad Adan, Khalif Abdirahman, and Jeeyon Janet Kim. "Facing Famine: Somali Experiences in the Famine of 2011." *Food Policy* 65 (2016): 63-73. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5176329/pdf/main.pdf>.

Summary: This paper focuses on the internal, Somali response to the 2011 famine, addressing questions such as: How did Somali communities and households cope with the famine of 2011 in the absence of any state-led response and with a significant delay in a major international response? What can be learned from these practices to improve our understanding of famine, and of mitigation, response and building resilience to future crises? The paper focuses on social connectedness—the extent of the social networks of affected populations, and the ability of these networks to mobilize resources—as the factor that seemed to determine whether and how well people survived the famine. The nature of reciprocity, the resources available within people's networks, and the collective risks and hazards faced within networks, all determined people's individual and household outcomes in the famine and are related to the social structures and social hierarchies within Somali society. But these networks had a distinctly negative side as well—social identity and social networks were also exploited to trap humanitarian assistance, turn displaced people into "aid bait," and to a large degree, determined who benefited from aid once it started to flow.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Resilience, Food Security, Food Aid, Food Access

Mercy Corps. *Assessing Communities' Coping Strategies During the Current Drought in Somalia - Research Brief: Somalia Resilience Population Measurement Activity May 2023*. Mogadishu, Somalia: Mercy Corps, 2023. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/assessing-communities-coping-strategies-during-current-drought-somalia-research-brief-somalia-resilience-population-measurement-rpm-activity-may-2023>.

Summary: Households in drought-prone areas employ a wide range of capacities to prepare for and respond to climatic shocks. To understand what unique capacities have been effectively employed in anticipation and response to the current drought, this research focused on outlier households, which are defined as individuals who employ somewhat uncommon yet effective strategies to respond to adversities and ultimately fare better compared to their peers from similar backgrounds. These strategies included diversification of income sources, especially away from agricultural income and towards casual labor opportunities in the community where they live, and utilizing local, informal sources of credit. Research found that while these outlier households were equally impacted by the severity of the drought, their effective use of coping and resilience strategies allowed them to withstand its ramifications for much longer. They continue to fare better than the average household in their community even as the drought stretches on, due to a number of factors, including access to credit and cash assistance, and through diversifying their income sources.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu, Kismayo, Baidoa

Thematic tags: Resilience, Risk, Poverty, Drought

Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development. *Somalia National Development Plan. 2020 to 2024*. Mogadishu, Somalia: Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, 2020. Retrieved from <https://mop.gov.so/somali-national-development-plan-9-2020-2024/>.

Summary: The ninth National Development Plan of Somalia provides the nation with a path leading to economic growth and reduction of poverty within the next five years. The goal of the Plan is to reduce poverty and inequality through inclusive economic growth and employment, improved security and rule of law, and strengthened political stability. It outlines an extensive poverty analysis diagnosing many of its root causes, including conflict, political instability, climate-related disaster and a still weak economy.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Resilience, Poverty, Key Stakeholders, Conflict, Displacement, Gender and Youth, Health and Nutrition, Food Security

Somalia Resilience Program (SomReP). *Positive Deviance in Somalia: Why Are Some Households More Resilient than Others?* Mogadishu, Somalia: SomReP, 2018. Retrieved from https://wvusstatic.com/2018/SomReP_Positive_Deviance_Study_Report.pdf.

Summary: Over the past two decades, Somalia has faced increasing humanitarian crises due to various challenges, including drought, conflict, poverty, and a fragile economy. In 2017, the country experienced severe drought conditions, leading to widespread crisis and emergency situations for millions of people. However, some households and communities appeared to cope better with the shocks, particularly

those involved in Savings Groups. To explore the relationship between resilience program exposures and well-being outcomes in specific districts, this study employs a Positive Deviance (PD) framework. The findings highlighted the devastating impact of the drought on households, with most of them reporting severe effects on food security and well-being. Despite the challenges, some households demonstrated resilience by maintaining or achieving food security, having diversified livelihoods, and being well-prepared to cope with shocks. The study revealed that households with better food security and coping abilities were more likely to belong to Savings Groups and participate in Cash for Work programs. Regular communication with people outside their village also correlated with better outcomes. Community perceptions of positive deviance were associated with socioeconomic and food security outcomes, suggesting that resilience indicators can vary between qualitative and quantitative approaches. The PD perspective shed light on additional determinants of resilience, such as optimism, entrepreneurialism, strong social networks, and access to non-governmental organization and humanitarian programs. Overall, the study emphasized the importance of understanding various factors influencing resilience to design effective programs and support vulnerable populations in Somalia.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Resilience, Food Security, Food Aid, Drought, Key Stakeholders

Somalia Resilience Program and Building Resilient Communities in Somalia Consortium. *Resilience Systems Analysis - Somalia Results and Roadmap*. Mogadishu, Somalia: SomReP and BRCiS, 2015.

Retrieved from

<https://www.oecd.org/dac/conflict-fragility-resilience/docs/Somalia%20Resilience%20Systems%20Analysis%20Feb%202015%20OECD.pdf>.

Summary: On February 24th and 25th, 2015, experts in risk and well-being systems, along with key decision-makers, gathered in Nairobi to strengthen the resilience of pastoral, agro-pastoral, and peri-urban communities in Somalia over the next three to five years. The meeting, organized by SomReP and the Building Resilient Communities in Somalia consortia, with assistance from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), involved various stakeholders, including the Federal Government of Somalia, NGOs, civil society, the Red Cross movement, donors, and the UN. The analysis focused on the OECD's resilience systems analysis methodology, aiming to develop a practical set of actions known as a "roadmap for resilience." The participants identified nine priority risks, including drought, seasonal flooding, livestock disease, human disease and epidemics, agricultural market collapse, conflict and instability, protection issues, and market instability. The key priorities to enhance well-being systems' resilience in Somalia encompassed strengthening youth education and technical training programs, improving value chains in vital sectors such as fisheries and value-added exports, developing a national resource management policy, enhancing government revenues, extending community-level early-warning systems, building essential social infrastructure services, and transitioning from humanitarian assistance to social safety nets and long-term development financing. The roadmap for resilience involves a coordinated commitment from various actors, including the government, private sector, UN agencies, and communities themselves, along with the support of donors. The plan can inform important processes, such as government planning and strategy, UN, NGOs, and civil society initiatives, as well as donor group meetings and high-level missions for Somalia conducted by the OECD.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Resilience, Food Markets, Food Production, Conflict, Drought, Key Stakeholders

UN Development Program (UNDP) Somalia. *Somalia Drought Impact and Needs Assessment: Volume I: Synthesis Report*. Mogadishu, Somalia: UNDP, 2018. Retrieved from https://www.gfdr.org/sites/default/files/publication/GSURR_Somalia%20DINA%20Report_Volume%20I_180116_Lowres.pdf.

Summary: The Drought Impact Needs Assessment's (DINA) primary goal is to assess the impacts of drought-related damage and losses, allowing for the quantification of current and future drought impacts. This assessment provides crucial information for the Federal Government of Somalia and its partners to guide drought recovery efforts and prevent famine while implementing structural interventions to break the cycle of recurring droughts. Importantly, the DINA estimates the resources required to move Somalia beyond perpetual emergency responses and toward recovery and resilient development. The DINA's objectives encompass estimating the physical, economic, and human impacts of the 2016-17 drought on Somalia's socio-economic development at national, state, and regional levels. It also aims to assess and quantify sector-specific drought recovery needs and overall resilience-building requirements, with a focus on integrating disaster risk reduction, durable solutions for displacement, resilience, and "building back better" principles into recovery planning. Additionally, the assessment takes gender and environmental considerations into account. The sectors covered by the DINA assessment include productive sectors like agriculture, livestock, and fisheries, which are vital for livelihoods, as well as physical sectors such as water supply, sanitation, transport, and environmental and natural resource management, which are essential for societal and economic functioning. Social sectors like health, nutrition, and education were also examined. Cross-cutting themes such as urban development, social protection, food security, gender, governance, conflict, displacement, disaster risk reduction, and drought resilience were analyzed for their impact on various sectors. Additionally, macroeconomic, human, and social impacts of the drought were assessed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the crisis.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, Mogadishu, South West State

Thematic tags: Resilience, Drought, Risk, Gender and Youth, Livestock, Fisheries

UNDP Somalia. *Somalia Drought Impact and Needs Assessment. Volume II. Sector Reports*. Mogadishu, Somalia: UNDP, 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.gfdr.org/sites/default/files/publication/122991-v2-Revised-GSURR-Somalia-DINA-Report-Volume-II-180111-Digital.pdf>.

Summary: Volume II of the DINA provides detailed information on the data collected and examined for 18 sectors and cross-cutting themes. These assessment reports include: an examination of the situation before the drought occurred; the discoveries and assessments made through the DINA, focusing on the impact of the drought; any relevant cross-cutting factors that come into play; strategies for recovery and building resilience, including estimates of the associated recovery costs.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, Mogadishu, South West State

Thematic tags: Resilience, Drought, Risk, Gender and Youth

Vision Quest Consultants. *Market Opportunities for Durable Solutions in Kismayo, Mogadishu, Dollow and Baidoa*. Mogadishu, Somalia: Danish Refugee Council, 2018. Available upon request from the authors.

Summary: This study focuses on the opportunities and challenges faced by returnees and host communities in Somalia as they seek to develop and sustain their livelihoods in the new settlement areas. It examines various sectors, including livestock, farming, fisheries, construction, and general trading in cities like Mogadishu, Kismayo, Dolo, and Baidoa. The research utilized a hybrid Making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P) approach to identify market opportunities and assess the skills needed for employment, access to microfinance, and potential policy support for thriving markets. Through a combination of qualitative methods such as key informant interviews and focus group discussions, information was gathered from various stakeholders, including community representatives, traders, micro-finance institutions, government officials, and Danish Refugee Council staff. The findings highlight promising market opportunities in the livestock, fisheries, farming, and general trading sectors across the mentioned locations. Additionally, the study recommends conducting detailed sector-specific value chain analysis to create effective market interventions. It also suggests supporting existing Technical and Vocational Education and Training providers to expand their course offerings, particularly in core business courses. Collaboration with microfinance institutions is encouraged to develop alternative credit-scoring mechanisms and improve access to microfinance for returnee small and medium enterprises. Furthermore, the report proposes creating platforms for market information sharing, especially for farm produce, and supporting government capacity building to enforce the internally displaced persons policy. These recommendations aim to foster economic development and livelihood opportunities for returnees and host communities in Somalia.

Geographic tags: Mogadishu, Kismayo, Baidoa, Somalia

Thematic tags: Resilience, Displacement, Poverty

World Bank. *Federal Republic of Somalia Systematic Country Diagnostic*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2018. Retrieved from <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/554051534791806400/pdf/SOMALIA-SCD-08152018.pdf>.

Summary: This systematic country diagnostic (SCD) employs a modified version of the changing wealth of nations framework. This framework centers on the construction of sustainable national wealth. It does so by assessing the stock of various types of capital: natural assets (e.g., land, forests, fish, minerals), productive assets (including buildings, machinery, and infrastructure like highways, ports, and electricity generation), human assets (comprising the population, education, and health), and intangible assets (such as the quality of institutions, the vitality of the private sector, and the functionality of society) that influence economic operations. The report finds that Somalia's economy depends heavily on agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and minerals—its natural capital, which is under stress from climate change, overexploitation, and governance deficiencies. The public sector lacks the resources and legitimacy to manage environmental change as needed and to enforce its decisions; until that can be done, it cannot sustainably benefit from its natural wealth. The report also notes that despite recognizing that extensive food insecurity is a serious problem, the government has been unable to prepare for food crises caused by extreme weather events. It additionally discusses a variety of dimensions contributing to poverty, risk, and resilience in Somalia.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Resilience, Food Security, Health and Nutrition, Poverty, Risk, Remittances, Fisheries, Livestock

World Bank. *Somali Poverty and Vulnerability Assessment: Findings from Wave 2 of the Somali High Frequency Survey*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2019. Retrieved from <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/2869359f-a8b7-5a1a-ae4-f6ba7177a5ce>.

Summary: This report provides a comprehensive overview of poverty and vulnerability in Somalia, with the aim of informing long-term development and resilience policies and programs. It draws on data from the 2nd Somali High-Frequency Survey to offer a detailed description of poverty in Somalia, including regional disparities. The report conducts an analysis of the impact of the recent drought on livelihoods and estimates the potential effects of future droughts, with a particular focus on their impact on vulnerable livelihoods. Additionally, it examines the role of general shocks, such as conflict and climate-related events, in contributing to displacement. Recognizing the importance of safety nets, both formal and informal, in supporting resilience, the report explores these mechanisms. It also provides policy recommendations aimed at protecting the poor and vulnerable while creating pathways out of poverty. These recommendations encompass various aspects, including improving remittance data, reducing the costs associated with remittances, promoting financial inclusion, developing innovative financial products, and progressing toward the Highly Indebted Poor Countries decision point.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Resilience, Poverty, Food Security, Drought, Displacement, Remittances

World Bank. *Somalia Climate Risk Review*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2023. Retrieved from <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/8f51dc1a-e342-40a3-8f8e-08e9aa4a2058>.

Summary: This Climate Risk Review aims to systematically summarize existing knowledge on Somalia's climate risks. It outlines Somalia's climate context and how it shapes rural production systems; examines the interaction between climate, armed conflict, and social risk to better understand vulnerability; assesses major biophysical climate risks; and links climate risks to the broader development agenda within Somalia. The report notes that the prevalence of vulnerable populations in Somalia is in part a function of the harshness of its climate, which both serves as a driver and intersecting factor in poverty, resilience, risk, and food security.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Resilience, Risk, Food Security, Poverty, Drought, Food Availability

World Bank. *Somalia Poverty Profile: Findings from Wave 1 of the Somali High Frequency Survey*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2017. Retrieved from <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/01516f78-1255-5220-ae18-59007fe415d1>.

Summary: The World Bank's Somali High Frequency Survey provides quantitative data to inform essential resilience programs to avoid human disaster in future expected droughts. This report provides the first poverty-centered profile of the Somali population. Poverty is widespread with every second Somali living in poverty in 2016. Poverty incidence is highest in IDP settlements where seven out of ten people are poor, while more than 1.1 million Somalis, roughly 9 percent of the population, are considered internally displaced. Poor households are more likely to be deprived beyond monetary poverty, and less likely to participate in the labor market. The poor are more likely to be illiterate, to have lower levels of educational attainment, and to live in dwellings of lower quality, including lack of access to improved water and sanitation facilities. This relationship between monetary poverty and non-monetary indicators of deprivation holds both within and across regions. Poor households further have poor labor market outcomes with low labor force participation and high unemployment.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Resilience, Poverty, Risk, Food Security, Displacement

POLITICAL ECONOMY ANALYSIS

BUSINESS AND TAXATION

Ahmad, Aisha. "The Security Bazaar: Business Interests and Islamist Power in Civil War Somalia." *International Security* 39, no. 3 (2014): 89–117. Retrieved from <https://direct.mit.edu/isec/article-abstract/39/3/89/30308/The-Security-Bazaar-Business-Interests-and?redirectedFrom=fulltext>.

Summary: This paper examines why Islamic governing movements were preferred over the clan-based warlord system by the business community in south central Somalia, and how this support promotes the success of such movements. The author finds Islam's ability to bridge clan and ethnic lines in the country enabled it to reduce the costs incurred by companies in Somalia and consequently gained their support. The previous warlord system operated along narrower identities of clan and ethnicity, and this resulted in a fragmented patchwork of authorities, roadblock taxation systems, security arrangements, as well as smaller spaces of trust. Interviewees describe the debilitating impact all of this had on companies trying to transport goods to different areas of Somalia from the ports of Mogadishu. The Union of the Islamic Courts was able to substantially reduce business costs by guaranteeing security over wider areas and having more generalized taxation systems. Furthermore, the research finds that in the unregulated business space of Somalia, Islamic identity continues to be actively promoted to promote trust and so business arrangements across clan divisions.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu

Thematic tags: Business and Taxation, Clan Dynamics

Carrier, Neil and Hannah Elliot. "Entrust We Must: The Role of 'Trust' in Somali Economic Life." *Danish Institute for International Studies Working Paper*, no. 2018:2 (2018). Retrieved from: https://www.diis.dk/files/media/images/publications/2018/diis_wp_2018-2_final_002.pdf.

Summary: This paper examines the role of trust within Somali business arrangements. Nonetheless, it does so via a case study from the “exemplarily ‘informal’” business economy of the Somali diaspora centered in Nairobi, Kenya. It finds a culturally normative conceptualization of trust has developed as an important lubricant for enabling business dealings within such an unregulated market. However, the paper also argues perceptions of trust within and across clans, the Somali community, and Islam should not be idealized, and both academics and businesspeople alike must approach the topic critically if they are to understand and use it effectively. Furthermore, there are Somali communities such as the Bantu, which have no choice but to trust, as their more marginalized position excludes them from the networks of trust more powerful clan members enjoy. Even so, while the research finds clan lineages are important frameworks for initiating acts of trust, it also finds the way in which an entrusted individual uses it is critical. Within lineages, a person’s reputation for being both trustworthy and able to trust will follow them, and this will influence how others respond to them. Consequently, the need to maintain a positive reputation regarding trust becomes a mechanism that promotes behavior considered good within these networks. Trust is also a factor that enables business dealings across clans, and again it is the process of entrusting that builds (or undermines) these relationships. Entrusting has taken on a normative cultural aspect of doing the right thing, but it is also a notion that enables calculated risk taking for businesspeople and it can promote business opportunities returning and increasing. Nonetheless, despite the importance of clan and Somali identity, the research argues Islamic faith is often a more important factor for garnering trust, with faith-based trust fostering business activity across the Somali community and beyond it. Finally, though, the paper emphasizes the many stories of broken trust that appeared in the research. Consequently, the authors argue the Somali business community’s direct and damaging experience of this, is another reason why promoting the good moral use of trust has become so important for them.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Business and Taxation, Clan Dynamics, Marginalization

Mursal, Faduma Abukar. “Elders Among Traders’: Market Committees and Everyday State Formation in Mogadishu.” *Danish Institute for International Studies Working Paper, no. 2018:5* (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.diis.dk/en/research/how-traders-make-state-in-mogadishu>.

Summary: This paper considers themes of state formation through a qualitative study of local politics in the urban markets of Mogadishu. The author finds that in the absence of stable and strong local and national authorities, traders have established market committees as a form of (self) governance. These help to mediate and adjudicate tensions and conflicts among the businesses, and consequently, they are a substitute for the state in certain aspects of their work. Nonetheless, the committee members very much differentiate themselves from any local authorities that do exist. They see their role as having its roots in traditional authority and the work of elders, one that can mediate between the local authorities and the markets they represent without being formally part of the state. Nonetheless, their acceptance of local authority taxation systems in the markets, and how their narratives define their work in contrast to existing state-like bodies, enables the legitimation of another level of authority both in practice and imagination. One whose function is expected and legitimated both now and in the future.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu

Thematic tags: Business and Taxation, Conflict, Governance

CONFLICT

Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project. *Heightened Political Violence in Somalia*. Mogadishu, Somalia: ACLED, March 2023. Retrieved from <https://acleddata.com/2023/03/03/context-assessment-heightened-political-violence-in-somalia>.

Summary: This is an up-to-date conflict context assessment from ACLED. The briefing reports 2022 was the deadliest year in Somalia since 2018, with over 6500 reported fatalities. This is connected to increased al-Shabaab activity and the corresponding government operations, with al-Shabaab continuing to be the most active violent group in Somalia. The major increase in conflict occurred from August 2022 onwards, with government offensives against al-Shabaab in Hiiraan, Middle Shabelle, Mudug, and Galgaduud regions. Government forces are reported to be supported by Hawadle, Abgal, and Habar Gedir clan militias, with clan militia involvement in political violence increasing by 31% compared to the previous year. Furthermore, increased activity by a local branch of the Islamic State in Mogadishu, and the ongoing conflict in the Somaliland-Puntland border regions contributed to the overall upsurge in the country's incidences of conflict. The government's offensives against al-Shabaab and the resultant increase in violence and fatalities involve a number of local and international actors. Government forces are not only supported by local militias, but also by African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) troops, the Turkish military, US special forces, and the US Air Force. The fertile Shabelle River region continued to be one of the battle centers, with it seeing a large number of government territorial gains, alongside some more modest al-Shabaab wins. The riverine state of Jubaland and the region of Bay also experienced a significant number of conflict incidents involving government forces, al-Shabaab, as well as other armed clashes.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Baidoa, Berdale, Jowhar, Mogadishu, Jubaland

Thematic tags: Conflict, Governance, al-Shabaab, Clan Dynamics

Felbab-Brown, Vanda. "The Problem with Militias in Somalia: Almost Everyone Wants Them Despite Their Dangers." In *Hybrid Conflict, Hybrid Peace: How Militias and Paramilitary Groups Shape Post-Conflict Transitions*, edited by Adam Day, 112-156. New York: United Nations University, 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-problem-with-militias-in-somalia-almost-everyone-wants-them-despite-their-dangers/>.

Summary: This study analyzes the pros and cons of relying on militias for security provision and counter-terrorism objectives in Somalia. It details the evolution, effectiveness, and effects on the stabilization efforts of several militia groups. The study then assesses the effectiveness and shortcomings of existing responses to militias in Somalia, providing recommendations to national actors, policymakers, and practitioners. The report highlights that militias are deeply entrenched in the political economy of Somalia, with militias having strong tendencies to appropriate political authority, strengthen authoritarian forms of rule, monopolize local economies, and engage in other mafia-like economic and political activities. It identifies different forms of militias, with many having key political and economic roles in relation to the interests of their leaders and funders. For example, clan militias can play a key role in bargaining over political and economic power; contract militias serve the political and economic interests of their political economic leaders, and they are often hired to protect business interests and undermine or eliminate those of the opposition; while externally created sponsored militias again

prosecute the interests of their funders, which could be anti-piracy, anti-terrorism, or to defend economic interests.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Hirshabelle, Galmudug, South West State, Kismayo

Thematic tags: Conflict, Militias, Political Economy, Key Stakeholders

Gelot, Linnéa, and Stig Jarle Hansen. "They Are from Within Us: CVE Brokerage in South-Central Somalia." *Conflict, Security & Development* 19, no. 6 (2019): 563–582. Retrieved from <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14678802.2019.1688961>.

Summary: This paper examines how local Somali actors take part in the international politics of countering and preventing violent extremism (P/CVE). It argues the social status and role of local Somali NGOs and traditional Somali elders can change, be enhanced, and undermined by becoming involved in the politics, objectives, and funding of transnational networks and organizations pursuing P/CVE. The authors explain religious leaders have traditionally acted as neutral arbiters in conflict, and clan leaders have held mediator roles, whereas in P/CVE roles they become aligned with particular international interests. This leads to changes in Somali societal structures, and respondents to the research felt these traditional leaders run the risk of becoming politicians. Furthermore, the article argues that Somali NGOs have gained a newfound social status through their access to transnational networks of funding and influence. Such access provides benefits such as vocational training, grants and contracts, and networks with global organizations. However, their participation in a form of "counterinsurgency" against their communities is transforming and potentially delegitimizing their sources of social power.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Conflict, al-Shabaab, Clan Dynamics, Key Stakeholders

Sheikh, Abass Kassim. *Conflict Assessment Report Hirshabelle State, Somalia*. Berlin: Berghof Foundation Operations, 2017. Retrieved from <https://berghof-foundation.org/library/conflict-assessment-report-hirshabelle-state-somalia>.

Summary: This qualitative study with 240 participants examined the most pertinent concerns and perceptions of respondents regarding the conflict in Hirshabelle State. The research was conducted across the six locations of Jowhar, Warsheikh, Adale, Beledweyne, Matabaan, and Bula Bur-te. The study reports that in all locations most conflicts occur between clans or sub-clans over the ownership of land, such as farmland, and competition over scarce pasture and water during drought. Sometimes these conflicts start out as disagreements between individuals but later escalate into clan-based conflict. Traditional conflict management systems are the main mechanism that communities have at their disposal to solve such disputes, with females often being excluded from this process. Some of the key drivers of these conflicts include a lack of demarcation in clan-based lands, desires to expand land boundaries by owners and clans, and clan affiliations controlling access to grazing lands. This struggle for land is fueled by the effects of drought and the increase in population sizes, alongside the scarcity of available pasture and water for pastoralists, agricultural, and internally displaced persons. All of this generates animosity and a lack of trust between different groups, something which can lead to violence quickly escalating when disagreements arise.

Geographic tags: Hirshabelle, Jowhar

Thematic tags: Conflict, Land, Displacement, Clan Dynamics, Drought

Williams, P. D. "Building the Somali National Army: Anatomy of a Failure, 2008-2018." *Journal of Strategic Studies* 43, no. 3 (2020): 366–391. Retrieved from <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/01402390.2019.1575210>.

Summary: This paper analyzes the recent attempt to build a Somali National Army (SNA) and reports several reasons why it appears to have failed. Between 2007 and 2017 a cohort of international actors funded and provided technical assistance aimed at developing the SNA. These parties included the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the Ethiopian Army, advisors from the United Arab Emirates, United States government agencies, the Italian government, the British Army, and the Turkish government. However, the author identifies interrelated sets of political, contextual, and operational challenges that undermined this effort. One significant element was the combination of clan dynamics and allegiances within the actual military personnel and the lack of will and unity among key Somali elites which both contrasted too heavily with the interests of international partners and the national force they envisaged. This was compounded by corruption within funding streams and distrust in communities on the ground, and together they subverted the creation of the institutions and command structures needed for an effective army to operate. This also influenced a segmented approach by the various international actors, leading to the uncoordinated creation of localized fighting forces, which were further undermined by those troops having to fight a civil conflict against al-Shabaab while attempting to train and develop.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Conflict, Clan Dynamics

DISPLACEMENT

Bakonyi, Jutta, and Peter Chonka. *Precarious Urbanism Displacement, Belonging and the Reconstruction of Somali Cities*. Bristol: Bristol University Press, 2023. Retrieved from <https://bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/precarius-urbanism>.

Summary: This book contains the much more detailed results of the research that also led to the subsequent article referenced below (by the same author). The authors examine the political economy of the clientelist relations with IDPs in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Hargeisa, and Bosasso enter into as a means to secure residence around those cities. They find urban landowners and intermediaries (gatekeepers) seek to attract impoverished IDPs and facilitate their settlement to gain access to and retrieve a share of international aid. In the absence of essential service provision from any other national or international agency, displaced people gain physical protection and access to needed resources in exchange. Nonetheless, the permanence of IDP settlements is always precarious, with the expansion of the urban areas and capital investment in urban development potentially leading to eviction as land prices rise. This results in a reported cycle of continuous eviction and instability for many IDPs. However, this process plays out differently in Mogadishu compared to Baidoa, with less urban investment and development, and the more homogeneous (clan) society in and around Baidoa leading to more stable conditions. The research also identifies a whole series of direct, and other times, more nuanced social discriminations the internally displaced people may encounter as a result of their clan identities, native language, and physical features. The research states that many of the interviewees identified as Digil and Mirifle clan members or other clans considered marginal from southwest Somalia. While respondents

did identify such discrimination is not necessarily uniform, the research argues this can lead generally to their territorial and social circumstances becoming stigmatized along the lines of cultural prejudice, which adds baggage to perceptions of belonging and the right to own land.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu, Baidoa

Thematic tags: Displacement, Urban Areas, Political Economy, Land, Marginalization, Clan Dynamics

Bakonyi, Jutta. "The Political Economy of Displacement: Rent Seeking, Dispossessions and Precarious Mobility in Somali Cities." *Global Policy* 12, no. S2 (2021): 10–22. Retrieved from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1758-5899.12849>.

Summary: This qualitative research examines the political economy of displacement in the four Somali cities of Mogadishu, Baidoa, Hargeisa, and Bosasso. Its primary focus is on the urban settlements created by and for displaced people in urban and peri-urban areas, and the political economy of the establishment, maintenance, and at times destruction of these camps. In Mogadishu and Baidoa, the research details the clientelist relationship IDPs build with camp leaders (gatekeepers), and how this relationship taps directly into international aid to generate income for both camp leaders and the owners of the land. Furthermore, the paper shows the importance of unpacking the dynamics of these clientelist relationships as a means to understand how IDPs are embedded in wider political and economic frameworks, and how food aid, the need for low-wage labor, and access to land, land use, and land ownership are central components of this. These are then further shaped by the local dynamics of clan identities and the flow of capital into Somali urban development and its impact on land value. Land ownership is shown to correlate with perceptions of belonging and (local) citizenship, making it not only economically charged but also politically and culturally.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu, Baidoa

Thematic tags: Displacement, Urban Areas, Political Economy, Land, Clan Dynamics

Bakonyi, Jutta, Peter Chonka, and Kirsti Stuvøy. "War and City-Making in Somalia: Property, Power and Disposable Lives." *Political Geography* 73 (2019): 82–91. Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0962629819300071>.

Summary: This paper examines how IDPs contribute to Somali urbanization and specifically the making of Mogadishu and Bosasso. The authors do so through the prism of Agamben's conceptualization of the camp as a zone of exception (space of suspended rights), one that manages a form of human existence defined as bare (socially and politically worthless) life. This leads them to analyze the hybrid, processual, and often violent modes of sovereignty different actors impose on the lives and living circumstances of IDPs, with property being one of the central mechanisms through which these forms of power are exercised. This essentially translates into a reality where the most disposable of lives (IDPs) are used to generate value for camp gatekeepers, landowners, and the local authority through types of rent, rent seeking, the management of aid to their camps and them, and the increased worth land can acquire once IDPs start to be provided with services. This often results in steady cycles of precarious camp living and surviving on aid, evictions, and relocations, as those benefiting extract the most valuable source of income from the IDPs presence at different points in the process. Nonetheless, the paper also identifies forms of agency among IDPs, as they operationalize their social networks to minimize the impact of such exploitation and powerlessness.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu, Bosasso

Thematic tags: Displacement, Political Economy, Marginalization

Bryld, Erik, Christine Kamau, Søren Knudsen Møller, and Mohamed A. Mohamoud. *Engaging the Gatekeepers: Using Informal Governance Resources in Mogadishu*. Copenhagen: Tana Copenhagen, 2017. Retrieved from https://sheltercluster.s3.eu-central-1.amazonaws.com/public/docs/Engaging%20the%20Gatekeepers.pdf?VersionId=pLru399xYM8GAEN_iBO0JR6XUgChJzaC.

Summary: This report summarizes the “gatekeeper” system that manages the IDP camps around Mogadishu and advocates for engaging these local actors to make them accountable for the services they control and provide. According to the authors, there are no government or United Nations-provided IDP camps around Mogadishu, and so these are arranged and administered through private landowners and the varied informal governance structures implemented by their managers or “gatekeepers.” These individuals act as middlemen and effectively control the flow of aid to and from the IDP camps. This results in localized taxation systems on food aid and money transfer mechanisms, or the management of food aid ration cards enabling complete control over IDP food distribution within the camps. Gatekeepers often come from the locally dominant clans, and if they are effectively subletting the land, their taxation and governance systems will be geared to both generating individual profit and power and paying rent to the local owners. Therefore, the preservation of precarity among the IDP population and their subsequent reliance on forms of aid, conversely supports income generation and the accumulation of power among other social segments in and around Mogadishu, promoting the maintenance of food insecurity.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu

Thematic tags: Displacement, Political Economy, Food Aid, Food Security, Key Stakeholders, Business and Taxation

Bryld, Erik, Christine Kamau, and Mohamed A. Mohamoud. “Using an Adaptive Approach to Making Gatekeepers Accountable to Internally Displaced Persons in Mogadishu, Somalia.” *Development in Practice* 30, no. 8 (2020): 982–993. Retrieved from <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09614524.2020.1754765?journalCode=cdip20>.

Summary: This paper explores the enhancement of accountability of self-established gatekeepers—informal power structures that have emerged within internal displacement areas in Mogadishu since the mid-1990s—against the formal governance system in Mogadishu. By aligning project designs to the political economy and using a flexible approach, the driving factors of these gatekeepers’ enhanced accountability can be identified. In order to contest these informal power structures, a flexible and adaptive project that constantly aligns with the local political economy offers more opportunities in enhancing accountability in difficult environments.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu

Thematic tags: Displacement, Political Economy, Food Aid, Key Stakeholders

REACH. *Detailed Site Assessment*. Mogadishu: REACH, 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.reachresourcecentre.info/country/somalia/cycle/56683#cycle-56683>

Summary: The Detailed Site Assessment is a yearly and ongoing body of research on thousands of IDP sites across Somalia, carried out by REACH in coordination with the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster. The research collects data on the location of sites, estimated IDP populations, and the levels of access, availability, and quality of their basic services. The purpose of the site assessment is to provide the humanitarian sector with up-to-date data on the location of IDP sites, their condition and capacity, and an estimate of needs. REACH produces both general country-wide and district specific reports, including Afgoye, Baidoa, Hudur, Jowhar, Kismayo, and the districts of Mogadishu.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Afgoye, Baidoa, Hudur, Jowhar, Kismayo, Mogadishu

Thematic tags: Displacement, Marginalization, Poverty

Menkaus, Ken. *Dadaab Returnee Conflict Assessment*. Mogadishu: Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat, 2017. Retrieved from <https://regionaldss.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/dadaab-returnee-conflict-assessment-ddg-2017.pdf>

Summary: This report examines the potential social and political impact of the return of up to 260,000 Somali refugees from the Dadaab camps in Kenya. More specifically, the paper analyzes how this will be experienced in the urban areas of Kismayo, Mogadishu, and Baidoa, and it explains this through a detailing of the social and political context of those cities. The study emphasizes how clan-based ideas of identity and belonging and their relationship to local power hierarchies will inform the returnees' ability to fully integrate themselves or not within the three areas. The report explains that many of the refugees are from the Digil-Mirifle and Somali Bantu clans and they will be considered guests in Mogadishu and Kismayo, limiting their rights and access to resources and protection. Conversely, in Baidoa, many returnees would be from the local clan family and should be able to access greater citizenship rights. Furthermore, the report highlights how the term "IDP" is also laden with these local cultural meanings, and that in Somalia, the term signifies a poor and low status individual squatting or renting in slum conditions.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Baidoa, Kismayo, Mogadishu

Thematic tags: Displacement, Urban Areas, Clan Dynamics, Marginalization

Syn, Juliette, and Laura Cunial. *"Who Are You?" Linkages Between Legal Identity and Housing, Land, and Property Rights in Somalia*. Mogadishu: Norwegian Refugee Council. 2022. https://www.nrc.no/globalassets/pdf/reports/who-are-you/full-report_who-are-you_linkages-between-legal-identity-and-hlp-in-somalia.pdf

Summary: This study examines the types of legal identity and civil documentation available in Somalia and explores how the lack of such documentation affects access to housing and land by displaced populations. The report highlights how the country does not have one comprehensive system of identity management. Instead, there are different state-specific systems in place leading to an assortment of various documents used to prove identity. However, regardless of location, barriers to access

documentation for IDPs included cost and confusion over the application process, resulting in many displaced people believing the cost and effort is not worth it. The research finds not having identity documentation is not a barrier for accessing camps or government relocation land for displaced people, and while it is necessary for purchasing land or acquiring better paid work, barriers such as finance and education are perhaps more significant obstacles for IDPs. Nonetheless, the lack of ID documentation does restrict IDPs in other ways, including their freedom of movement, accessing some education and health services, bank accounts, and applying for a driving license. All of which can improve a person's livelihood options.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Displacement, Key Stakeholders, Marginalization, Poverty

Wade, Christopher. *"I want my land. You have to go." Understanding the eviction phenomenon in Baidoa.* Norwegian Refugee Council, 2021. Retrieved from <https://www.nrc.no/globalassets/pdf/reports/i-want-my-land/i-want-my-land---full-report.pdf>

Summary: This study researches the political economy of IDP evictions in Baidoa. It finds these revolve around a combination of intertwined elements, primarily a reliance on verbal tenancy agreements; increasing land values; unregulated urbanization; the commercialization of IDP sites; an increase in commercial land acquisitions; the related increase in land disputes; and importantly the weak legal frameworks around Housing, Land, and Property rights. Furthermore, this situation is enabled by a complete lack of legal repercussions for those promoting and benefiting from these dynamics. Nonetheless, the study also emphasizes examples of good practice and the positive steps made by the local district and state authorities in partnerships with humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors. It concludes that a robust legal framework regarding land tenure, inclusive and government-led land allocation processes for IDPs, and an informed eviction prevention strategy would all be key to stabilize IDP residency status. Consequently, IDP resilience and recovery would be then better safeguarded, and the longer-term value of the interventions and investments made by both the humanitarian and public sector would increase.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Baidoa

Thematic tags: Displacement, Political Economy, Governance, Marginalization

LAND

Besteman, Catherine and Daniel Van Lehman. "Somalia's Southern War: The Fight over Land and Labor." In *War and Peace in Somalia: National Grievances, Local Conflict and al-Shabaab*, edited by Michael Keating and Matt Waldman, 299-308. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. Retrieved from <https://academic.oup.com/book/35091>.

Summary: This study examined the treatment of Somali Bantu populations living under al-Shabaab rule in the Jubba Valley. The research respondents claim Somali Bantus pay a number of taxes to al-Shabaab and that these are higher with harsher non-compliance penalties than for non-Bantu Somali groups. Furthermore, the study claims when Bantu families leave the area their land is sold by al-Shabaab to business owners from majority Somali clan groups. The respondents reported that Somali Bantu pay about 50% or more of their harvests to al-Shabaab every year, while a majority reported that non-Bantu

groups pay 45% to none. Somali Bantu households also pay an average “house tax” of US\$66.40 every month, while non-minority clan members pay US\$21.20. Al-Shaabab also confiscates from 15% to 33% of the remittances received by Bantu families, while this is 0-20% for non-minority clan Somalis. Furthermore, respondents claim that al-Shabaab demands households pay Islamic charity contributions, that Bantu sons become fighters, Bantu daughters are married, and that refusing these forms of extortion has severe consequences. Finally, Somali Bantus are unable to leave al-Shabaab areas of control and can suffer significant violence if they are caught trying to leave or return.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Jubaland

Thematic tags: Land, Conflict, Marginalization, al-Shabaab, Business and Taxation

Gundel, Joakim. *Pathways and Institutions for Resolving Land Disputes in Mogadishu*. Nairobi, Kenya: Pact and the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, 2020. Retrieved from <https://2017-2020.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1860/Access-to-land-rights-in-Somalia-research-report-March-20.pdf>.

Summary: This report examines the types of issues causing land disputes in and around Mogadishu and the justice pathways available to resolve these. The main sources of land disputes reported are land grabbing for powerful political and business interests; land claims by returning Somali diaspora; the issues of multiple and fake land deeds; the arbitrary and illegal sale of public property in favor of government/private interests; and inheritance disputes that intersect the Somali tradition of collective inheritance, female access to inheritance, and diaspora claims. To resolve these disputes the research reports on a mosaic set of pathways, which can vary on the type of case, but also on the social, economic, and political positions of the parties. All generally put weaker parties at a disadvantage. Traditional dispute mechanisms are generally favored over the formal court system, which is considered time-consuming and corrupt, with the police rarely enforcing decisions. However, *xeer* is not well adapted to urban social structures either, and traditional elders often lack the resources to enforce decisions, especially against parties with significant political and economic power. Overall, access to positive outcomes from justice can largely depend on money, power, influence, and clan, and this leaves women generally, internally displaced persons, and marginalized groups such as the Bantu in a vulnerable position, exacerbating cycles of land loss, marginalization, and increased precarity.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Mogadishu

Thematic tags: Land, Conflict, Gender, Justice, Marginalization

Rift Valley Institute. *Land Conflict in Somalia: Key Issues and Challenges for Transformation*. Nairobi, Kenya: Somalia Stability Fund, 2021. Retrieved from <https://stabilityfund.so/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Land-Conflict-Full-report-PRINT.pdf>.

Summary: This report analyzes the literature on conflict in Somalia and finds competition over land is a primary driver. Moreover, the report argues challenges to resolve these conflicts arise from traditional institutions’ lack of capacity to manage conflicts involving parties that are not directly part of local communities, such as outside investors. Further complicating this is the country’s “legal pluralism” where different formal and informal governance structures sit alongside and overlap with each other. Other factors that drive conflict include competition for natural resources that support livelihoods in the context of population growth, large-scale population movements, changing climates and the depletion of

environments, economic priorities, power asymmetries between clans, and the general weakness of institutions. Urban land conflicts are often driven by rapid urbanization and the weak institutional frameworks to manage this, whereas rural conflict is caused by competition over resources. Environmental factors are central to pastoral land conflicts, with the growth of human and livestock populations increasing pressure on rangelands. In peri-urban areas, land-use conflicts often escalate from competition between pastoralism and urbanization. Finally, the fragile land governance system in Somalia means the land rights of minority groups and women are disproportionately vulnerable.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Land, Conflict, Justice, Marginalization

Rift Valley Institute. *Land Matters in Mogadishu: Settlement, Ownership and Displacement in a Contested City*. London: Rift Valley Institute and Heritage Institute for Policy Studies, 2017. Retrieved from <https://riftvalley.net/publication/land-matters-mogadishu>.

Summary: This report examines land governance and the dynamics of ongoing land disputes in Mogadishu. It focuses specifically on the issues of private land, attempts to reclaim private land as people return with greater political stability and the mechanisms that attempt to resolve these. It also explores the specific land-related issues facing IDPs, especially as the growth of the city, the rise in land prices, and the subsequent evictions all compound the critical precarity they already face. The report details some of the major causes of land disputes as returning diaspora looking to reclaim property, issues around inheritance, multiple land deeds for the same property, and land grabbing. The report describes an “extremely weak” legal framework surrounding private property in Mogadishu, leading to potential manipulation, with *Xeer* not considered a suitable alternative and Sharia Law not currently being used. These weak regulations over land tenure and ownership also make IDP residences extremely precarious, with many going through a cycle of constant eviction. Forcibly relocating IDPs is as much government policy as it is a tool used by the private sector. The Federal Government justifies this by employing a stigmatizing narrative towards IDPs, and a discourse that frames them as temporary urban residents who will return to their places of origin. However, many IDPs envision staying permanently in Mogadishu. Finally, the report highlights the theme of IDP camp “gatekeepers,” and the fact urban informal settlement is a business, one that has been monopolized by a web of landowners, district officials, and businesspeople.

Geographic tags: Mogadishu, Somalia

Thematic tags: Land, Conflict, Displacement, Justice

Saferworld. *The Missing Link: Access to Justice and Community Security in Somalia*. London: Saferworld, 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/1270-the-missing-link-access-to-justice-and-community-security-in-somalia>.

Summary: This qualitative study analyzed some of the key challenges to strengthening community safety and addressing barriers to peace in Somalia. Members of Community Action Forums in Mogadishu, Kismayo, and Baidoa identified land conflicts, gender inequality and violence, youth gang violence, and ineffective law enforcement as the most pressing safety issues in their areas. The lack of justice is seen as critical, and it undermines gains around safety and security and fuels community grievances. The

experience of injustice is colored by discrimination, disenfranchisement, exclusive governance structures, corruption, and abuse of power by government security forces. These barriers to justice were described as worsening the exclusion of marginalized groups, as well as potentially threatening an already volatile situation. Land disputes are described as a major driver of conflict where ownership is disputed between different parties and where all parties hold documents evidencing ownership. This is exacerbated by cases of fraud and forgery, loopholes within the current land acquisition process, and a lack of law enforcement and justice. Furthermore, the report found women in the research areas face multiple and layered injustices. They experience exclusion, discrimination, and injustice within all the different justice options, and their increased visibility in decision-making structures has been largely tokenistic. Additionally, the participants describe economic hardship as a direct driver in an increase in youth gang violence, robberies, and other criminal offenses. Overall, the participants strongly linked these issues to the lack of a robust justice system. They believe the criminal justice system is poorly capacitated, corrupt, discriminatory, and abusive.

Geographic tags: Mogadishu, Kismayo, Baidoa

Thematic tags: Land, Conflict, Justice, Gender, Youth

UN Habitat. *Land and Conflict in Jubaland: Root Causes Analysis and Recommendations*. Nairobi, Kenya: UN Habitat, 2020. Retrieved from <https://unhabitat.org/land-and-conflict-in-jubaland-root-cause-analysis-and-recommendations>.

Summary: The study examined the land-related causes of conflict in Jubaland State. The report identifies three major root causes of conflict and the most significant triggers of conflict within these contexts. Firstly, the principal environmental root causes of conflict are scarce natural resources, including land and water, alongside natural resource exploitation. Land scarcity issues are related to reduced pastures, the unsustainable increase of livestock, unrecognized and undefined pastoralist land rights, the breakdown of governance systems managing natural resource use, the inadequacy of justice systems to rule on resource use, and the enclosing of land perceived as communal land for private pastures. Secondly, the principal socio-economic causes of conflict incorporate population growth, poverty, crime and terrorism, and exploitative and unregulated investments. Population issues related to youth bulges, landless poor, and the settlement of returnees and displaced people, are exacerbated by the stresses of poverty, with inadequate housing and services in mushrooming neighborhoods and IDP settlements, discrimination against the poor with regard to land and housing, and limited access to land for farming. All of this is again compounded by unregulated and corrupt land practices, including forced evictions and the acquisition of land by investors to the detriment of vulnerable people. Finally, the report also details the governance-related root causes of conflict as weak governance, weak land administration, politics of exclusion, the capture of state instruments, and chaotic urbanization. The politics of exclusion includes land dispossession, the marginalization of minority groups and clans from accessing land, the exclusion of IDP communities from accessing land rights, and the general spatial, social, and economic segregation of vulnerable communities.

Geographic tags: Somalia, Kismayo, Jubaland

Thematic tags: Land, Conflict, Displacement, Marginalization, Justice, Poverty

POLITICAL ECONOMY

de Waal, Alex. *Somalia Synthesis Paper, 2017*. London: London School of Economics, 2017. Retrieved from <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/100162>.

Summary: This paper provides an overview and review of some of the most pertinent themes and debates concerning Somalia's political economy and the drivers of conflict up to 2017. The paper also outlines why using the conceptual frameworks of the "political marketplace" and "moral populism" are fruitful for understanding the nature of tradeable politics and influence in the country, and the way in which clan identity is manipulated and even interchanged by politico-military leaders for their own ends (meaning clan conflict is not always as straightforward and primordial as it is sometimes portrayed and perceived). The review emphasizes that politics and conflict in Somalia can be understood as a four-level system, with drivers at the global, regional, national, and local. It states the conflict drivers at any given level are independent, but these will influence those around it, and the combination of these four levels creates enormous complexity. Furthermore, the paper states that the high, unregulated, and independent nature of capital flows from citizens abroad and Somali businesses, targeted at the national and local levels, gives conflicts in those areas a significant amount of independent energy and influence. Funding for politics comes principally from regional players mostly in the Middle East and Somalia's business community, with the coordinated (or conflicting) nature of business-political interests and its resultant financing critical for political (in)stability. The paper reviews how this plays out across the themes of "Building State Capacity and Legitimacy," "The 'Security Arena' and Security Sector Reform in Somalia," "Natural Resource Management and the Business Sector," "Community Level Dialogue and Mediation," "Humanitarian Crisis and Humanitarian Action," and "Gender Dynamics in Somali Settings."

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Political Economy, Conflict, Clan Dynamics

de Waal, Alex. "Somalia's Disassembled State: Clan Unit Formation and the Political Marketplace." *Conflict, Security & Development* 20, no. 5 (2020): 561–585. Retrieved from <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14678802.2020.1820160>.

Summary: This paper traces the development of the current disunified Somali political order and how this has shaped and been shaped by modes of conflict-driven political identity formation and the ongoing monetization of political relationships. Furthermore, the author argues this reality continues to exist as it proves to be more attractive to the country's main political actors than establishing a recognized and institutionalized overall political authority. Importantly, the paper argues the politico-military, territorially situated clan-unit structures that emerged during and from the civil war of the early 1990's were not a direct reflection of Somali clan histories and lineages, but were the product of the practicalities, contingencies, and outcomes of that particular moment in Somalia's history. Nonetheless, this momentary war-time division of identity and territory has now been formalized by international state-building activities into the current 4.5 power sharing formula. The paper writes this is reminiscent of older colonial practices, where Western powers conceptualized, constructed, and sometimes invented static ethnic and political frameworks out of the fluid socio-political realities they encountered at their moment of intervention. Unfortunately, this means the imagined 4.5 state is misaligned to the realities of society. Significantly, developing alongside Somalia's disassembled political order has been the logic of the political marketplace where allegiances can be traded. For the author, this was critical for the pre-civil war administration of Siad Barre, and it has continued into the present

moment. Overall, what emerges from the paper, is that while clan, politics, business, and power certainly interrelate with each other in modern-day Somali society, they are not neatly or predictably aligned, nor is there a straight line from the current setup to past social and political configurations.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Political Economy, Conflict, Clan Dynamics

Gaas, Mohamed Husein. "Primordialism Vs. Instrumentalism in Somali Society: Is an Alternative Needed?" *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* 36, no. 4 (2018): 464–483. Retrieved from <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02589001.2018.1559279>.

Summary: This paper broadly analyzes the Somali clan system, presenting an alternative to the primordial and instrumental frameworks for understanding it. The author argues that neither of these traditional approaches effectively captures what he calls the notion of "clan dynamism", its changing nature through time and context, and the bidirectional manipulation that it entails between political elites and clans. Clans and political elites may enter relationships for their mutually beneficial purposes, but if a clan feels they are no longer receiving the support the political elites agreed to, they also have the power to withdraw their backing—something that has happened repeatedly throughout Somalia's recent history. Furthermore, the paper highlights that clan identity can be fluid during environmental and political shocks. For example, this has enabled individuals to update or adapt their genealogy depending on where they have to reside or move to. Moreover, it has further mutated with rural to urban migration, and the fact millions of Somalis now live as diaspora, with many rejecting clan identities altogether. Additionally, the author argues that while clan can certainly be manipulated as means to access power, it is not necessarily conflict-inducing in itself, with much of Somalia's insecurity also being heavily influenced by the interests of foreign powers. The author includes competition between Qatar and the United Arab Emirates as a contemporary example. Finally, with all of the changing social realities emerging from years of conflict, national and international migration, and the diminishing locality of clan and the influence of elders, clan has lost some power to generate robust collective action.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Political Economy, Conflict, Clan Dynamics

Hagmann, Tobias and Stepputat, Finn. *Corridors of Trade and Power: Economy and State Formation in Somali East Africa*. Copenhagen: Institut for Internationale Studier / Dansk Center for Internationale Studier og Menneskerettigheder, 2016. Retrieved from <https://forskning.ruc.dk/en/publications/corridors-of-trade-and-power-economy-and-state-formation-in-somal>.

Summary: This paper examines the informally governed Somali economy and how this has influenced elements of state formation, especially in those areas of greatest economic importance and activity. It does so by reviewing the literature on the key economic trends since 1991 and analyzing how these influence modes of governance along the primary corridors of economic influence. They conclude this stateless economy is still very much a governed space, encompassing processes of ordering, managing, and standardizing, with trust, reciprocity, and protection, but also fear, threats, and compliance. These have produced state effects, including revenue for local administrations, shaping settlements between elites, offering security arrangements across clan boundaries, and contributing to compliance with

international rules and standards. The contradiction is that these state-building effects are happening in a context where a stateless economy has been institutionalized. The paper makes a tentative observation that the Somali economy has evolved in a number of interrelated ways since 1991. It has changed from a radically decentralized economy to more integrated markets; from one relying on clan protection and coercion to multi-clan shareholder and decentralized franchise companies; from short-term accumulation to longer-term business models; from low-tech and low skill to greater technological and labor sophistication, and from avoidance of central regulation to increasing compliance with international standards.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Political Economy, Governance

Webersik, Christian, Stig Jarle Hansen, and Adam Egal. *Somalia: A Political Economy Analysis*. Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, 2018. Retrieved from <https://nupi.brage.unit.no/nupi-xmlui/handle/11250/2502618>

Summary: The primary emphasis of this political economy analysis is on conflict and stabilization in Somalia and in aiding understanding of the country's political, economic, and social power structures and actors. The study concludes that political power is contested between different formal and informal groups, including clans, al-Shabaab, religious groups, the diaspora, the Somali Federal Government, and the regional federal states. It contends the Federal Government is not representative of many Somali people and real power lies with clan militias and al-Shabaab, with these entities controlling the sub-contracts for humanitarian aid, import / export businesses, and illicit trades. Furthermore, private economic interests and political decision making are tightly intertwined in Mogadishu and elsewhere, and the business community has significant influence over political outcomes. This includes a lack of willingness to promote the establishment of a robust rule of law due to the benefits many businesses extract from its absence. Indeed, instability and conflict are business opportunities in themselves, and the report argues there is now an elite that directly profits from ongoing insecurity. Finally, the inability of the Federal Government to defeat al-Shabaab, provide satisfactory services, protect people from violations, and be representative of Somali people is seen as severely undermining hopes for a better future.

Geographic tags: Somalia

Thematic tags: Political Economy, Governance, al-Shabaab, Clan Dynamics, Militias

URBAN AREAS

Ali, Ibrahim Khalif, Francesco Tonnarelli, and Pablo Fernandez. *Kismayo Urban Profile*. Mogadishu, Somalia: United Nations Habitat, 2020. Retrieved from https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/10/kismayo_urban_profile_2020.pdf.

Summary: This Urban Profile presents a condensed overview of analyses and data gathered from various systems, sectors, and key actors, offering a spatial perspective to enhance comprehension of the intricate urban crisis in Kismayo. The report encompasses data on Kismayo city, including details about population shifts, land utilization trends, environmental limitations, and essential urban services like safety, water supply, sanitation, waste disposal, transport, electricity, communication, education,

healthcare, and residential land and property. Prepared by the Jubaland State Ministry of Public Works, Reconstruction, and Housing, the document received support from UN Habitat as part of the UN Joint Program for Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery. The objective is to facilitate the development of a shared understanding of the complexities surrounding the urban crisis in the context of Kismayo.

Geographic tags: Kismayo, Somalia

Thematic tags: Urban Areas, Displacement, Health and Nutrition, Water and Sanitation

Ali, Salah Mohamed, Francesco Tonnarelli, and Pablo Fernandez. *Baidoa Urban Profile*. Mogadishu, Somalia: UN Habitat, 2020. Retrieved from https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/07/baidoa_urban_profile_2020.pdf.

Summary: The Urban Profile, compiled by the Ministry of Public Works, Reconstruction, and Housing in the South West State of Somalia, aims to present an overview of analyses and data gathered from various systems, sectors, and stakeholders, with a focus on the spatial aspect. Its purpose is to foster a collective comprehension of the intricate urban crisis in Baidoa. The report encompasses data on Baidoa City, including details about population shifts, land utilization trends, environmental limitations, and essential urban services like safety, water supply, sanitation, waste disposal, transport, electricity, communication, education, healthcare, and residential land and property. The preparation of this document was made possible with the assistance of UN Habitat, as part of the UN Joint Program for Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery.

Geographic tags: Baidoa, Somalia

Thematic tags: Urban Areas, Displacement, Health and Nutrition, Water and Sanitation

Maestre, Pablo Fernandez, Sophos Sophianos and Mohamoud Hassan Hussein. *Jowhar Urban Profile*. Mogadishu, Somalia: UN Habitat, 2020. Retrieved from https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/12/jowhar_urban_profile.pdf.

Summary: The Jowhar Urban Profile offers a comprehensive overview of the city's main characteristics. It addresses current development challenges, focusing on displacement and urban resilience, particularly in relation to floods from the Shabelle River. This technical document complements various planning studies and reports, aiming to create a more sustainable future for Jowhar by providing essential urban services to all communities and ensuring inclusivity. The Urban Profile presents key findings from the Community Action Planning process, government consultations, and urban planning exercises, considering both spatial and socio-economic perspectives. It emphasizes the significance of proper urban planning based on reliable data, resource mobilization, and coordinated efforts by the government to facilitate infrastructure improvements, livelihood opportunities, housing, education, healthcare, and other essential services. This paper aims to foster public discussions on Jowhar's development and assist local, regional, state, and federal authorities in decision-making.

Geographic tags: Jowhar, Somalia

Thematic tags: Urban Areas, Displacement, Health and Nutrition, Water and Sanitation

UN Habitat's Midnimo Programme and Urban Planning and Design Team. *Hudur Urban Profile*.
Mogadishu, Somalia: UN Habitat, 2020. Retrieved from: <https://unhabitat.org/hudur-urban-profile>.

Summary: This paper provides a concise overview of the urban profile of Hudur, focusing on its spatial aspects. The analysis considers both the development potentials and challenges of Hudur over a five to ten-year timeframe. Various studies and data updates conducted by United Nations agencies and local and international stakeholders are referenced. However, due to the current security situation in Hudur, there is no comprehensive study that offers a detailed understanding of the town and its residents. Acknowledging the potential rapid changes in development, contingent on broader economic, social, and environmental trends in Somalia, the paper aims to address the key settlement issues and align them with the needs of the diverse communities living in Hudur, encompassing returnees, IDPs, and the host community. Drawing from the ongoing Community Action Planning Process in Hudur's urban villages, the establishment of the District Council, and insights from local, state, and national strategy papers and plans, the paper presents proposals for town planning and transformations. It emphasizes the integration and upgrading of numerous IDP settlements to ensure that all residents benefit from improved living conditions, enhanced access to urban services, and job opportunities. The paper aspires to foster essential public discussions concerning Hudur's future development and to facilitate decision-making by state and local authorities, including the newly formed Hudur District Council, with the collective well-being of the town's inhabitants in mind.

Geographic tags: Hudur, Somalia

Thematic tags: Urban Areas, Displacement, Health and Nutrition, Water and Sanitation