

NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

PREPARED BY

**Safari Development &
Research Solutions (SDRS)**

2024+



BACKGROUND

The Needs Assessment was conducted in response to the worsening humanitarian situation in Somalia, characterized by severe drought and conflict. The assessment aimed to evaluate the needs of vulnerable populations across various districts in Somalia, with a focus on food security, health, education, water, sanitation, and shelter. The project was initiated to identify immediate and medium-term interventions that could alleviate suffering and build resilience among the affected communities.



OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the assessment were to:

1. Identify the most pressing needs of the affected populations in targeted districts.
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of ongoing humanitarian assistance.
3. Provide recommendations for future interventions to improve the living conditions and resilience of vulnerable households.



METHODOLOGY

A mixed-methods approach was adopted, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques. The data collection involved household surveys, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions across eleven districts in Somalia.

The assessment covered a wide range of indicators related to food security, health, education, water, sanitation, and shelter.

The sample included a representative cross-section of the population, ensuring that the findings were comprehensive and reflective of the situation on the ground.



FINDINGS

1. FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS:

- **Meal Improvement:** 89.6% of beneficiaries reported an improvement in the number of meals consumed per day and the quality of food, indicating a reduction in food insecurity.
- **Income Sources:** Casual labor (40%) and livestock sales (26%) were the most common income sources. However, 60% of households reported a drop in income, with 41% experiencing a 50-75% decrease.
- **Hunger Levels:** Moderate to severe hunger was evident in most of the assessed districts, with an average household hunger score of 2.56, indicating widespread food insecurity.

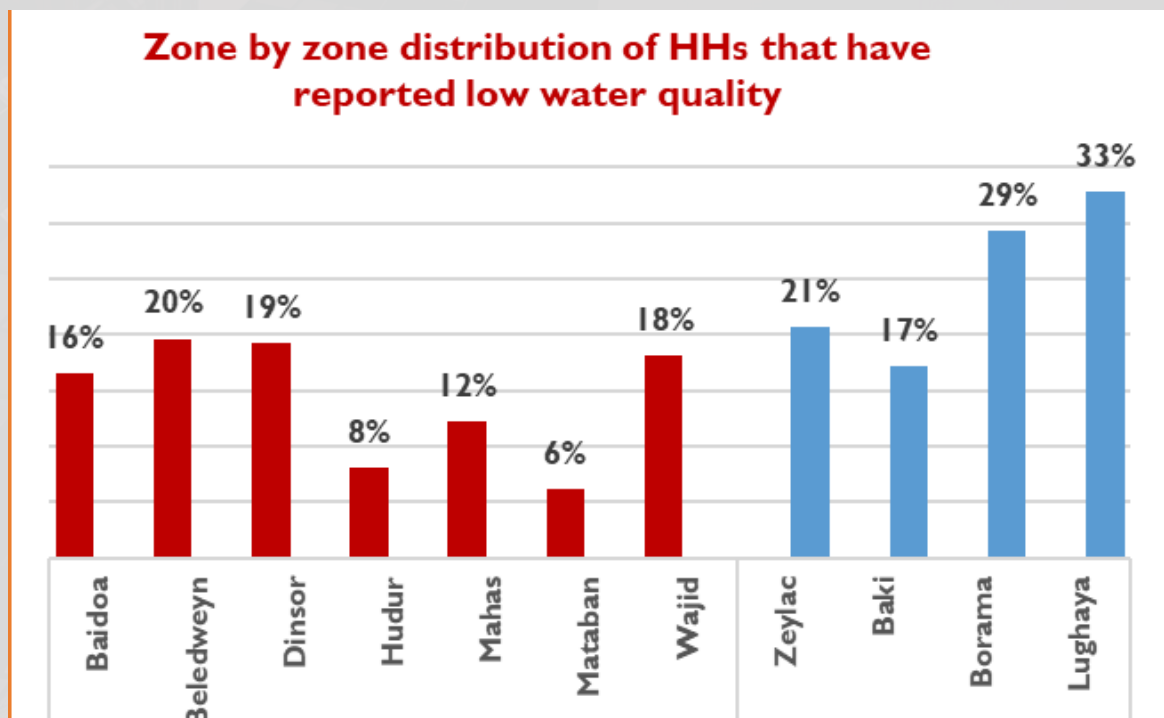
2. HEALTH

- **Access to Health Services:** 70% of respondents stated that accessible health services were insufficient and inadequate. Only 60% of households could access health centers, while 13% relied on mobile clinics.
 - **Health Issues:** Between the last week of January and mid-February, 2,408 individuals (30% of the total population assessed) became ill, with 190 deaths reported. Respiratory illnesses, malaria, and diarrhea were the most common health issues.
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FINDINGS

3. WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH):

- **Water Access:** Public water sources were overcrowded, serving an average of 80 households per source in South Central Somalia and 98 households in Somaliland. Households had to walk an average of 2-2.5 km to reach a public water source.
- **Water Quality:** 53% of households reported access to low-quality water, characterized by bitterness, salinity, and odor. Additionally, 43% of households did not treat water before consumption.
- **Sanitation:** 85% of households with latrines lacked hand-washing facilities, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases. Open defecation was practiced by 37% of the population, further exacerbating sanitation challenges.

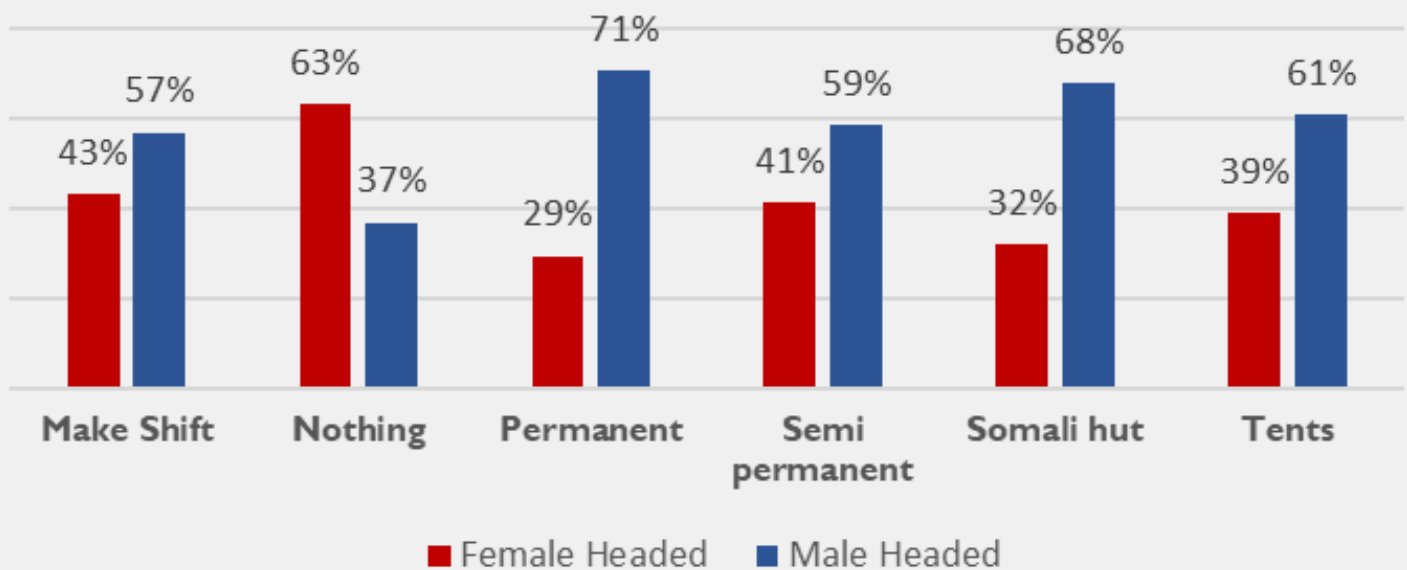


FINDINGS

4. SHELTER AND PROTECTION

- Shelter Access: Only 10% of assessed households lived in permanent structures, with 41% residing in Somali huts, 33% in semi-permanent structures, and 12% in makeshift or emergency shelters.
- Protection Issues: 10% of households reported that one of their girls had been sexually assaulted, with 6% aware of recent assaults in their communities. Forced recruitment of children by militant groups like Al-Shabaab remained a significant concern, especially in South Central Somalia.

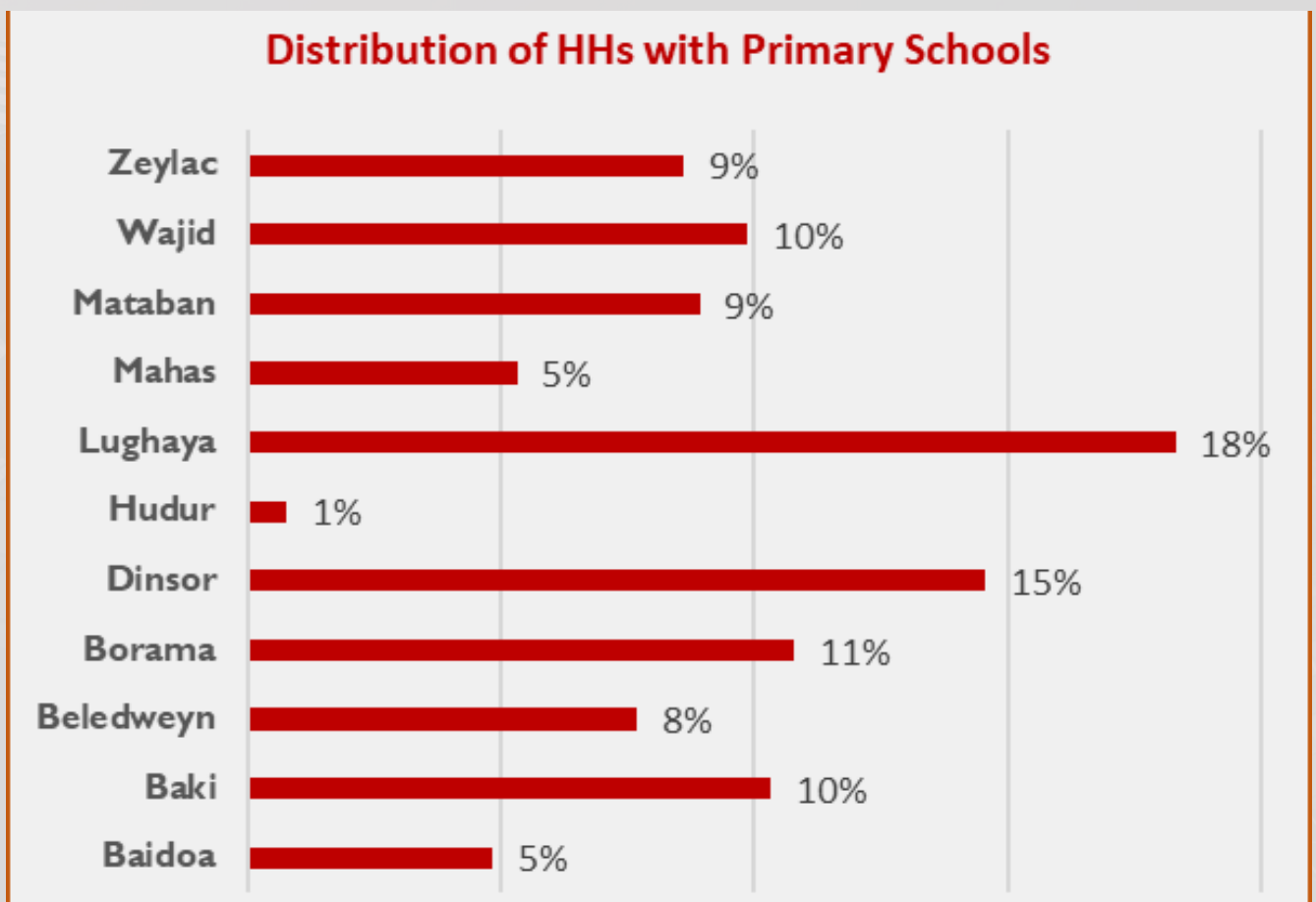
Categories of HHs and their access status



FINDINGS

5. EDUCATION

- **School Attendance:** 87% of households reported that their children had not dropped out of school, but 70% of school-aged children (5 to 18 years old) lacked basic primary education.
- **Access to Schools:** 37% of communities had non-functional schools, with a projection that this could rise to 50% by mid-2018. The availability of secondary schools and skilled teachers was a major setback in education.



CHALLENGES

- **Inaccessibility:** Many rural areas were difficult to access due to rough terrains, insecurity, and inadequate infrastructure, limiting the reach of humanitarian assistance.
- **Limited Resources:** Insufficient resources and overstretched facilities, especially in health and education, hampered the delivery of essential services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Short-Term Needs:** Continue providing humanitarian assistance with a focus on recovery to prevent affected communities from slipping back into severe hunger and increased malnutrition.
- **Medium-Term Needs:** Promote alternative livelihoods, particularly in fisheries and technical skills, to build resilience against future shocks.
- **Long-Term Strategy:** Reorganize the response and recovery strategy, assigning specific zones to humanitarian organizations for targeted interventions, in collaboration with the federal government.

CONCLUSION

The Needs Assessment revealed that while ongoing humanitarian efforts have made significant impacts, there are still considerable gaps in health, education, and WASH services. Immediate and sustained interventions are necessary to address these challenges and to build the resilience of affected communities. The recommendations provided aim to enhance the effectiveness of future interventions and ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable populations are met.

This Summary Report is a product commissioned to Safari Development & Research Solutions

For more information: mohamed@sdrssomalia.so

Our Resources are Available at www.sdrssomalia.so Phone: +252-613048025