Overview: Thirty three incidents impacting humanitarian operations were reported in the period 01 Jan – 31 Mar 2020, impacting seventeen different humanitarian organizations across Somalia. As a result of these incidents, two humanitarian staff were killed in Hirshabelle, five were injured in Banadir and Hirshabelle, four were abducted and two arrested in Jubaland, and one humanitarian worker was arrested in Somaliland. Mortar attacks were carried out against the UN compound in Mogadishu on the 17th February and 8th March 2020. Forty-six per cent of the incidents during this reporting period are attributed to government authorities, thirty-one per cent to non-state armed actors, nineteen per cent to armed clan militias and four per cent to other nations’ forces operating in Somalia.

Incidents: Incidents varied in nature with eighteen cases of violence against humanitarian personnel and operations recorded. Six incidents involved restriction of movement against organizations, personnel and goods into/within the country, two involved restrictions of access to services by conflict affected population, two were incidents of interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities and four resulted from environmental occurrences. Comparing this quarter to the same period last year, in which thirty-two incidents were documented, similar levels of violence persist.

Road Access: Somalia’s volatile security context combined with poor infrastructure continues to create a challenging operational environment for humanitarian partners and hampers their ability to conduct assessments and deliver aid. At the same time, the ability of the affected people to access services and assistance is also restricted. During this reporting period, free movement of staff and humanitarian supplies has been constrained along the main supply routes of the country’s southern and central states. Twenty-three districts with an estimated population of 1.3 million in need are Hard to Reach areas, and five districts in Southwest, Jubaland and Hirshabelle States are inaccessible.

SNA/AMISOM Operations – Janaale: The Somali National Army with support from AMISOM recovered the Janaale settlement, Lower Shabelle on 16 March 2020. The situation in Janaale remains tense with continued Al-Shabaab attacks. With no airstrip, humanitarian access is by road which is subject to IED attack. Due to the long-term presence of Al-Shabaab, there has been very limited humanitarian activity in the Janaale area. A needs assessment reported that a significant percentage of households in Janaale were locally displaced to host communities or to IDP settlements, but about two thirds of those are now reported to have returned. Priority needs have been identified as food, WASH, shelter, health and, when COVID-19 restrictions end, schooling (although this is being addressed through distance learning, including by radio).