SOMALIA
Humanitarian Access Overview - Quarter 3

July - September 2021

30 Incidents Reported (JUL - SEPT 2021)
14 Number of Districts Affected
11 Number of Regions Affected
60% Number of Incidents Related to Ability to Deliver Principled Humanitarian Assistance

Number of Access Incidents by Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th># of Incidents</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th># of Incidents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banadir/Mogadishu</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Banadir</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disputed Area</td>
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<td>Sool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Galmudug</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gaaladuud/Mudug</td>
<td>4/1</td>
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<td>Hirshabelle</td>
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<td>Hiraan</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jubaland</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gedo</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puntland</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bari/Mudug</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somaliland</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Toquadheer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bakool/Bay</td>
<td>2/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Access Incidents per Type

- Armed hostilities preventing access (4 incidents)
- Ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance (18 incidents)
- Ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance (8 incidents)
- Interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities (9 incidents)
- Violence against humanitarian personnel, assets and facilities (9 incidents)
- Physical environment (4 incidents)
- Restrictions on or obstruction of, conflict affected populations access to services and assistance (8 incidents)
- Restriction of movement of organizations, personnel or goods within country (9 incidents)
- Restriction of movement of organizations, personnel or goods into the country (1 incident)

Type of Access Incidents by Month

- Total number of incidents
- Ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance
- Ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance
- Armed hostilities preventing access

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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Feedback: ochasomalia@un.org www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int
Produced by Information Management Unit
Overview

The third quarter (Q3) of 2021 saw the number of recorded access incidents decline significantly compared to the two preceding quarters and to the same period in 2020. During Q3, OCHA recorded 30 access incidents across Somalia with humanitarian implications. This is a 58 per cent reduction compared to each of Q1 (70 incidents) and Q2 (71 incidents) and a 40 per cent decline compared to the same period in 2020 (50). While the reason for the decline in recorded incidents is not clear, it may be related to the tightening up of security by the Government over the extended election period or as a result of a reduced risk posture being taken by partners during the election period (such as reduced missions/field presence) to mitigate the impact of security incidents on their staff and operations. Another possibility is that new, remote ways of working adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in less exposure and a lower number of incidents. Regardless of the reduction in recorded incidents, there have been no changes in power dynamics nor control of areas and no improvement in the overall access environment.

While the number of access incidents in this quarter slowed significantly with a monthly record of 12 incidents for July, eight in August and ten in September, there have been variations in the types of the recorded incidents. Nine incidents were documented for each of ‘interferences in the implementation of humanitarian implementation’ and ‘violence against humanitarian personnel, assets and facilities by authorities’ that continued to intervene in the modus operandi of the humanitarian organizations. Due to the Hagaal rains lingering from July to September, four incidents of ‘physical constraints resulting in movement restrictions’ were documented. Rains also resulted in stagnant water blocking the main roads in Mogadishu and restricting civilian movement, including for humanitarian aid workers. In late July, floods damaged the road in Qardho town (Bari region) and resulted in the temporary closure of a health facility and market places for a day. Elsewhere, as a result of military offensives and clan hostilities, four incidents of military operations and ongoing hostilities impeding humanitarian operations were documented. On 4 July 2021, fighting between Galmudug security forces and Al-Shabaab at Cabdi Xashi Xayow village along the main road between Dhususamarre and Guri Ceel towns (Galgaduud region) prevented civilian movement for three to four hours and resulted in an unspecified number of civilian casualties. A mortar attack on Aden Abdulle International Airport (AAIA) on 21 July resulted in the injury of one international contractor and seven others.

While there were no incidents resulting in the death or abduction of humanitarian staff during Q3, two humanitarian workers were injured and a further four detained. This is a deterioration on Q2 which saw no violent incidents recorded, although it is an improvement on Q1 when one humanitarian worker was killed, four were injured, one abducted and one detained. Overall, the period between January and September 2021 has seen one staff killed, seven injured, one abducted and six detained. This is a significant decrease on same period of last year during which the deaths of 11 humanitarian workers were recorded with 12 injured, 24 abducted and 14 detained.

Bureaucratic Impediment and Interferences

Forty-three per cent (13 out of 30) of incidents recorded relate to bureaucratic impediments and interferences. With the exception of three incidents perpetrated by non-state armed groups and criminal elements, all other incidents involved government authorities. Of the nine incidents of interference impacting humanitarian operations reported, four occurred in Woqooyi Galbeed, two in each of Galmudug, Mudug and Bakool regions while one incident in each of Banadir, Bay and Sool region. In Baidoa, one incident of denial of a commercial plane landing by authorities was documented, while in Gaalkacyo north, one incident of the seizure of a private vehicle carrying humanitarian supplies by the authorities was documented in Gaalkacyo. Two incidents of increased economic blacklisting by a non-state armed group were documented. In August, the Galmudug authorities suspended the operations of three local NGOs, delaying a livelihood support project targeting 1,000 beneficiaries in five districts in the State. On 25 August Somaliland issued a directive regulating cash transfers, restricting humanitarian partners’ ability to deliver cash to beneficiaries, however, to date, OCHA has not received any reports of any impact on humanitarian partners operations as a result of the directive. In September, Galmudug authorities suspended the implementation of a locust response project that targeted 5,500 beneficiaries in Gaalkacyo district. As a result of this suspension beneficiaries were denied from receiving US$60 per month over a six-month period. Sources noted that the suspension is due to a disagreement between the Galmudug State Ministry of Labour and its Federal-level counterpart over the project cost.

Violence against humanitarian personnel continued to affect humanitarian operations with nine incidents by authorities documented across the country, five in Woqooyi Galbeed and one in each of Togdheer, Bay, Gedo and Mudug regions. Despite the decline in overall incidents, the number of violent incidents has risen compared to the preceding period (eight), but it is still lower than the 13 incidents recorded during the same period last year. On 28 August 2021 in Baardheere, (Gedo region) a former staff member, terminated by an NGO, organized an armed militia to set fire to a clinic providing health and nutrition services to women and children requiring the facility to suspend services for a day, affecting up to 40 children and 100 pregnant and lactating women patients who were unable to obtain health and nutrition services or treatment. The most significant incident occurred in Baidoa, Bay region, on 22 July 2021, when the security personnel of an INGO opened fire in an attempt to disperse a crowd of beneficiaries for a livestock distribution resulting in the death of a civilian woman and the injury of seven others.