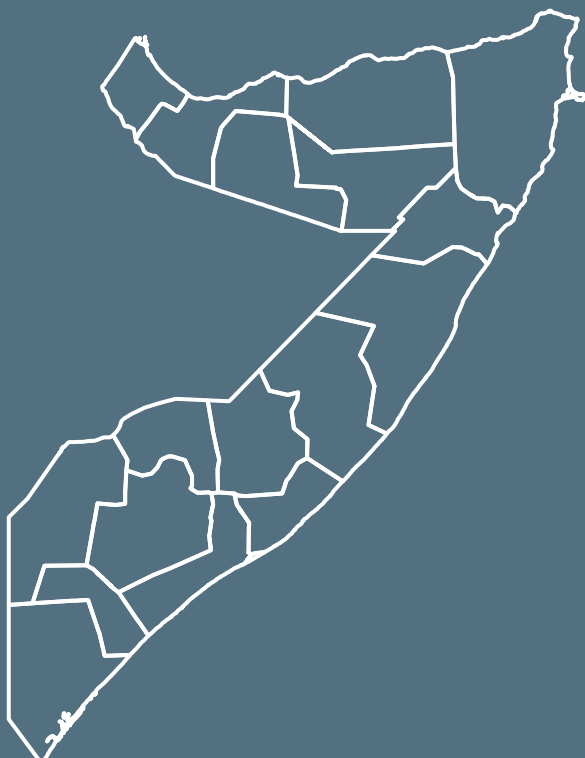


Rights, information, and predictability: Keys to navigate a complex crisis

Cash Barometer • Somalia • December 2022



GROUND TRUTH
SOLUTIONS

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For more information about the Cash Barometer in Somalia or globally, please contact andrew.nzimbi@groundtruthsolutions.org or visit www.groundtruthsolutions.org/cash

The Cash Barometer is an independent accountability mechanism that combines face-to-face surveys with qualitative discussions to enable cash and voucher recipients to share their views and participate in decision-making.

With generous funding from the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs:



Introduction

Somalia is facing its longest, most severe drought in 40 years. Humanitarian needs have grown substantially since the launch of the Somalia 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) in January, as the number of people affected by the drought has doubled from 3.2 million in the beginning of the year to 7.8 million people in October 2022. Many humanitarian organisations have increased their funding requirements to match the scale of the crisis. However, they have secured less than half of the needed funds.¹ Warning signs for this crisis appeared in 2020, when the March-April-May (MAM) rain performance was poor in southern Somalia. This could have triggered anticipatory action.² Now, Somalia has faced four consecutive failed rainy seasons, with a fifth expected in the coming months. This risks the crisis lasting well into 2023.³ Besides the drought, Somalia has experienced climate-related shocks, locust infestation, COVID-19, political unrest,⁴ and most recently the global inflation in food prices caused by the war on Ukraine.⁵

“We lost our livestock so they should give us better support that can help us manage our lives.”

— Female, 63, in-camp IDP, Galgaduud

“We need to be given more money to compensate us for the heavy losses caused by the drought that took away our livestock and everything we owned.”

— Female, 34, in-camp IDP, Galgaduud

Cash and voucher assistance in Somalia

The use of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) is steadily increasing in Somalia. Between January and September 2021, humanitarian CVA reached 1.7 million people, up from 1.5 million in 2020. This represents 42% of the people targeted in the 2021 HRP and 11% of the total population.⁶ In addition, two main social assistance programmes, Baxnaano and EU Sagal, provided regular unconditional support to vulnerable people in Somalia. They reached over 1 million people in 2021. In 2019, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) approved the Somalia Social Protection Policy (SSPP). This laid the foundations for a policy framework for shock-responsive social protection, which has played a key role in responding to crises faced by Somalis.⁷

In 2021, cash working group (CWG) partners delivered 46% of the cash and voucher assistance through mobile money, and the rest through electronic vouchers (44%).⁸ The shift from using the informal banking network (Hawala) to mobile money started around 2017. A few years later, mobile money became the default delivery mechanism for shock-responsive social protection programmes.⁹

Both humanitarian and social protection programmes have expanded their interventions as part of the drought response. For both to work better, coordination – starting with community members – is key.

¹ UNOCHA. 1–24 October 2022. “Somalia: Drought Response and Famine Prevention”.

² Oxfam, Save the Children, & the Jameel Observatory. May 2022. “Dangerous Delay 2: The cost of inaction”.

³ UNOCHA, Multi-Agency Drought Alert. November 2022. “Immediate global action required to prevent Famine in the Horn of Africa”.

⁴ ACAPS. No date. “Seasonal Events Calendar Dataset”.

⁵ Washington Post. 30 June 2022. “Africa’s desperate hunger: Ukraine war pushes Somalia toward famine”.

⁶ UNOCHA. December 2021. “Somalia: Humanitarian Response Plan 2022”.




⁷ SPACE. July 2021. “Using Social Protection to respond to COVID19 and other shocks in Somalia”.

⁸ Somalia Cash Working Group. No date. “Somalia Cash Assistance 2021”.

⁹ SPACE. July 2021. “Using Social Protection to respond to COVID19 and other shocks in Somalia”.

We talked to 1,261 CVA recipients







State

-  **939** South Central (74%)
-  **171** Puntland (14%)
-  **151** Somaliland (12%)






Gender

-  **680** women (54%)
-  **581** men (46%)



Delivery mechanism

-  **823** mobile money (65%)
-  **358** electronic voucher (28%)
-  **46** paper voucher (4%)
-  **18** mixed (1%)
-  **8** cash in hand (1%)
-  **6** e-cash (1%)

Status

-  **591** host community (47%)
-  **387** IDPs living in camps (31%)
-  **153** IDPs living outside camps (12%)
-  **81** returnees (7%)
-  **14** refugee (1%)
- 35** other (3%)

Age

-  **1093** 18-59 years old (87%)
-  **168** 60+ years old (13%)

Scope and rationale

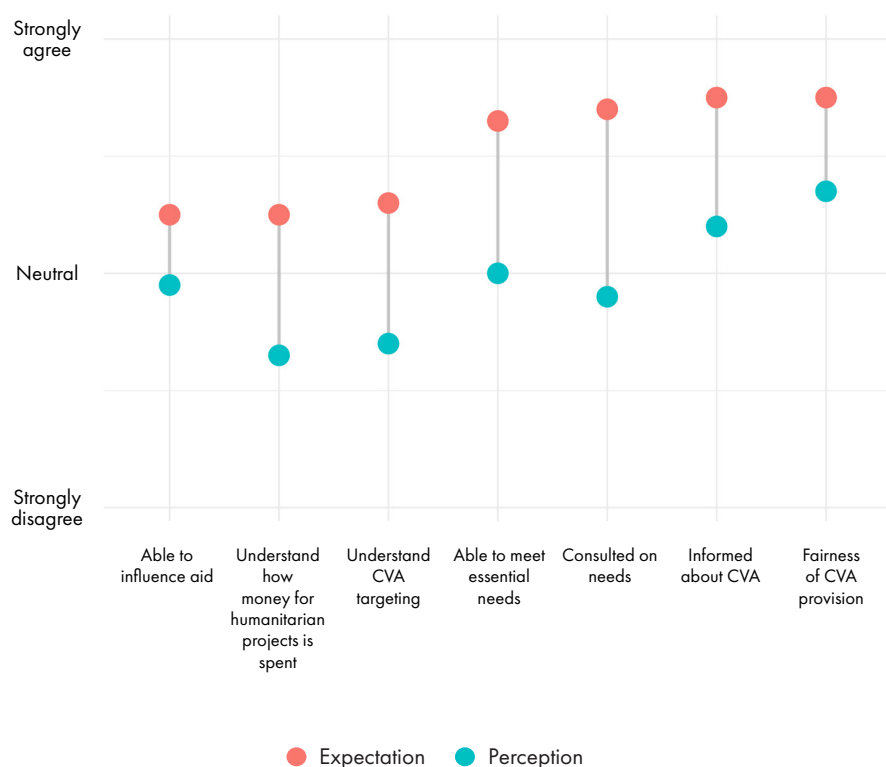
We spoke to 1,261 cash and voucher recipients in 47 locations across 15 regions and 24 districts in Somalia to understand their perceptions of the quality of the response. Building on previous data collection from 2020¹⁰ and 2021,¹¹ expectation-confirmation theory inspired our survey design.¹² The theory suggests that people base their satisfaction with services on comparing perceptions with prior expectations. We therefore explored our respondents' expectations of receiving CVA-related information, participating in shaping the aid they receive, and the fairness of aid distribution. We then contrasted these expectations with the reality perceived by respondents and we identified areas where gaps exist. The survey also provides time-series data that tracks progress towards a more accountable response.

We aimed to capture the preferences of our respondents regarding different parameters of aid. These included aid modality, delivery mechanism, duration, and frequency. Analysing these preferences helps to construct what an appropriate response looks like from people's own perspectives.

Why track expectations?

To understand how people experience a response, it is useful to know their initial expectations. Contrasting expectations with perceptions highlights priority areas for action. The graph below illustrates the gaps between people's perceived importance and lived realities of certain priorities. The widest gap exists between the desire to be consulted on community needs by humanitarian organisations and its actual occurrence: whereas 90% describe this as important, 39% feel it is actually taking place. Similarly, while 92% say being informed about available aid is important, 63% feel informed in reality.

People have lower expectations of information about targeting, transparency in how humanitarian money is spent in their community, and being able to influence aid. Around 60% of respondents describe these as important. Qualitative research¹³ shows that feeling "disentitled" to aid and gratitude for being selected as a recipient drives low expectations: People do not feel they have a right to information or to ask questions.



¹⁰ Ground Truth Solutions. December 2020. ["Perception survey of aid recipients in Somalia"](#).

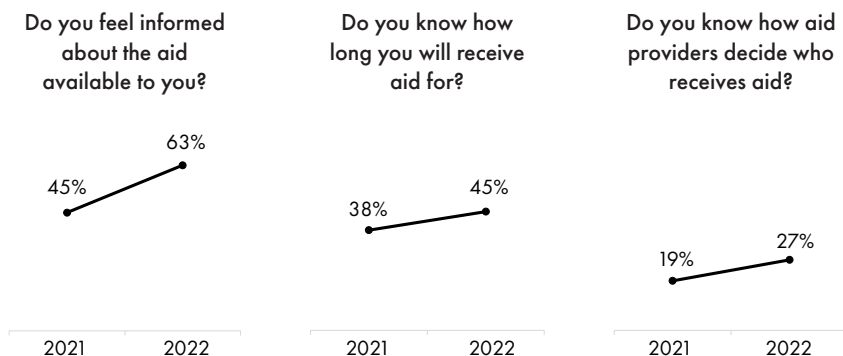
¹¹ Ground Truth Solutions. February 2022. ["The participation gap persists in Somalia. The Cash Barometer"](#).

¹² Morgeson, Forrest V. Apr. 2013. ["Expectations, Disconfirmation, and Citizen Satisfaction with the US Federal Government: Testing and Expanding the Model"](#). *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 23(2): 289–305.

¹³ Ground Truth Solutions. July 2022. ["Community reflections: The cumulative impact of keeping people informed"](#).

1. Without information, navigating a complex crisis is challenging

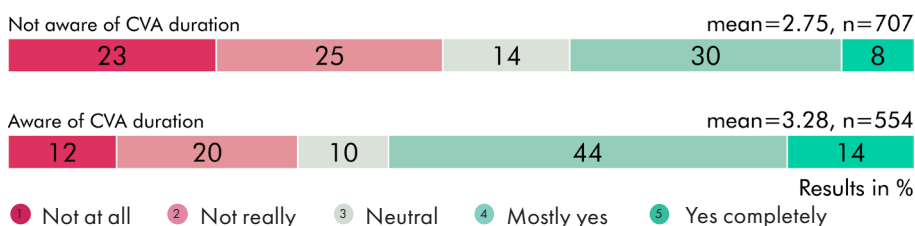
Sixty-three percent of the people we spoke to feel informed about the aid available to them, an increase from 45% in 2021. The proportion of respondents who know how long the aid they receive will last rose from 38% in 2021 to 45% in 2022. A greater proportion also understand the targeting criteria: 27% compared to 19% in 2021. This indication of improvement is promising. However, by contrasting the perceived reality with the importance of these priorities, significant gaps stand out.



*The graphs represent the proportion of respondents who provided a positive response ("mostly yes" or "yes completely") to the questions asked in both years.

Familiarity with available aid programmes does not imply affected populations know key details such as eligibility criteria or how long projects or programmes will last. Only 45% of respondents know how long their assistance will last and 27% know the selection criteria. When asked about information they need, people emphasise aid duration or "when the last month would be" (39%); what aid is provided by whom in their location (20%); and how to access a specific service besides CVA (18%), like healthcare, food, livelihoods, shelter, or education. Twelve percent of respondents want to know the disbursement schedules, or when their next payment is, in a timely manner. Another 12% are concerned about the future of the CVA: whether their current transfers will be extended and whether the amounts will rise to cope with rising costs of basic needs. Providing this information is not always easy, especially when future funds are not guaranteed. But not doing so undermines people's ability to maximise their resources. Indeed, 58% of people who know how long their aid will last also say they can better plan for their future, as opposed to only 38% of those who do not know their aid duration.

Do you think the cash and voucher assistance you currently receive allows you to better plan for your future?



We need to know the last month of the cash support.

— Female, 39, out-of-camp IDP, Middle Shabelle



I received only two months. I don't know if I will get it next month or not.

— Female, 42, host community, Puntland



I would like to know how long they will continue giving us the cash, also whether the cash amount will be increased for us.

— Male, 58, host community, Galgaduud

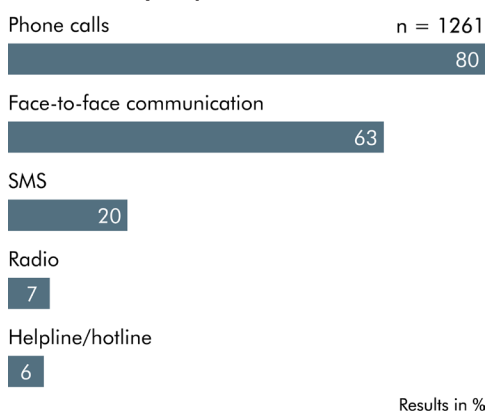


We need them to tell us whether they are increasing the money for us because it is not enough to cover all our needs.

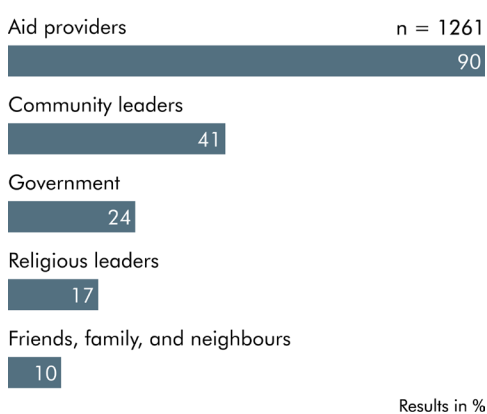
— Female, 43, out-of-camp IDP, Galgaduud

Over recent years, people have articulated preferences for direct communication with implementing organisations rather than intermediaries. Eighty percent of our respondents prefer to receive information through phone calls, 63% through face-to-face communication, and 20% through SMS. In terms of who affected populations prefer to receive this information from, 90% mention aid workers, 41% community leaders, and 24% the government.

How would you prefer to receive information?



Who would you prefer to receive information from?



*Percentages do not total 100% because respondents could choose multiple options.

People shared practical insight for how they want to receive information. Some would like to receive phone calls or an SMS ahead of disbursement to ensure targeted people have the necessary information to access their payments. Phone ownership is high in Somalia,¹⁴ and higher still among CVA recipients. Of the CVA recipients we spoke to last year, 84% own a mobile phone and another 13% can access one within their household. As for direct face-to-face communication, people want community meetings or field visits by humanitarian staff where providers can share information directly.

“They should call me on the phone especially when they want to send the money.”

— Female, 37, host community, Galgaduud

“They should bring together all the beneficiaries and inform them of what they will be supported with, if possible, or they should conduct telephone calls.”

— Male, 31, host community, Lower Shabelle



They should establish regular connections through telephone calls with the affected populations registered.

— Male, 47, in-camp IDP, Banadir



They should avoid contacting us through third parties. They should contact us directly.

— Male, 67, in-camp IDP, Galgaduud



I have an e-voucher card restricted to buying food items and no one notifies me when there is a top-up unless I ask the neighbours who have the same card. I would like the staff to call us or send us a short message when there has been a top up.

— Female, 35, host community, Bay



Aid workers should come to the site/IDP camp one day before the distribution and inform the camp residents.

— Male, 35, out-of-camp IDP, Banadir



We want the NGOs to come and know about the problems we face so that they can address them. And we need to know how much we are supposed to get.

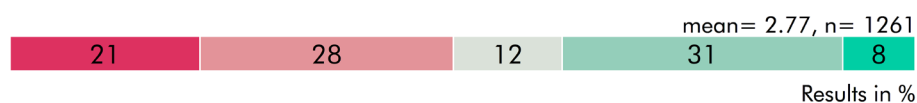
— Female, 36, in-camp IDP, Galgaduud

¹⁴ Altai Consulting for the World Bank. April 2017. “[Mobile Money in Somalia Household Survey and Market Analysis](#)”.

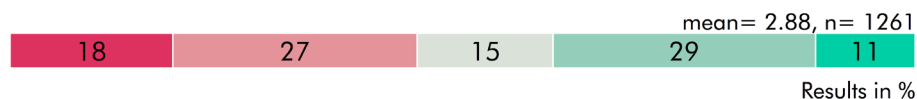
2. People are not fully aware of their right to participate

Despite people's desire to provide input, participation gaps persist. Only 39% say they were consulted on their needs and 40% feel people in their community can influence how aid is provided. Expectations are higher for consultations than influence. Qualitative research explains why: Many people perceive aid as "humanitarian organisations' money" rather than their own; they are therefore not convinced they should influence how it is spent. Agencies must take a rights-based approach when communicating with crisis-affected people. This helps ensure that people understand they can participate and speak up about their needs, rather than passively accepting what they are given.

Do aid providers consult you on your needs before providing cash or voucher assistance?



Do you think people in your community can influence how cash and voucher assistance is provided?



1 Not at all 2 Not really 3 Neutral 4 Mostly yes 5 Yes completely

"It's their [aid agencies] money so I don't know how much they would like for the community to participate. But the community should play a role. They should be able to vote on things and make decisions; not just be told what is going to happen. They need to start at programme design, and the selection can then be done following the community's recommendations. They also should be part of implementation and the evaluation. But I doubt that will happen. Would you let someone control your money and make decisions on what you spend it on?"

— Female, 41, Garowe

"[The community] is very rarely consulted. There is a feeling that if someone gave you something, then you can only say thank you, you aren't supposed to talk about it. With regards to international aid, I don't know of any ways that people can influence it, unless they raise the money themselves."

— Male, 38, Garowe

Almost all agencies have complaints and feedback mechanisms. These are only as good as their ability to process feedback, by adapting programmes and closing the feedback loop. More than half of respondents do not know how to submit feedback or complain. Of those who know how, 40% have complained or submitted feedback. And of those, only 64% received a response. The need to close the loop is clear: when humanitarian organisations respond to people’s feedback, 86% are mostly or completely satisfied.

Do you know how to make suggestions or complaints about the aid/ services you receive?



If yes, have you filed a suggestion or complaint?

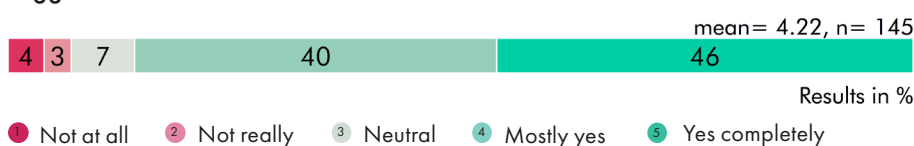


If yes, have you received a response to your suggestion or complaint?



● No ● Yes

How satisfied were you with the response you received to your complaint/ suggestion?



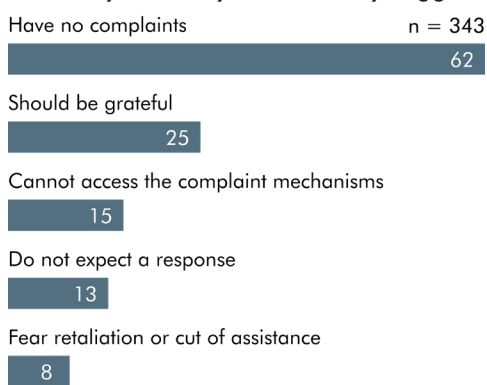
Most people who have not submitted feedback reason that they do not need to: 62% have “no reason to complain.” Others highlight barriers like the need to be “grateful” for aid (25%), or an inability to access feedback mechanisms (15%). Some simply do not believe they will receive a satisfactory response (13%) or fear retaliation or exclusion from assistance (8%).



No, you do not have much power when you are given help by a man or an organisation; you can only thank them, you can't make a scene or cause issues.

— Male, 56, Garowe

If no, why haven't you raised any suggestions or complaints?

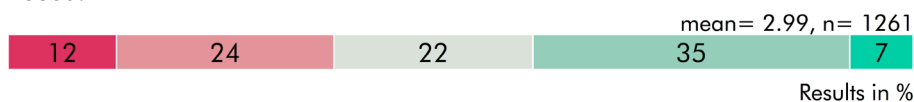


*Percentages do not total 100% because respondents could choose multiple options.

3. High prices push people to their limits

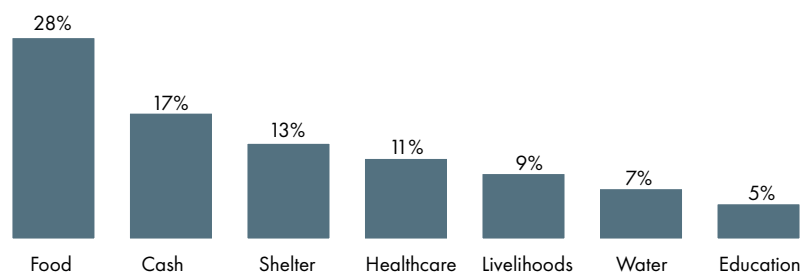
Somalia has experienced recurring crises, from climate shocks to protracted conflicts and displacement. Without other options, people expect aid to cover their most pressing needs. However, only 42% say this is the case. Respondents specify food (28%), cash (17%), and shelter (13%) as primary unmet needs. This is not surprising given that acute and catastrophic food insecurity has forced many people to leave their homes to seek food, water, and basic services.¹⁵

Does the cash and voucher assistance you receive meet your most important needs?



1 Not at all 2 Not really 3 Neutral 4 Mostly yes 5 Yes completely

What is your most important need that is not currently met? (n=1171) *

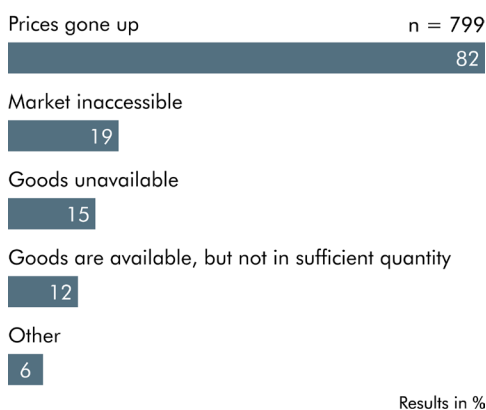


High prices continue to prevent people from meeting their basic needs. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of respondents cannot purchase the goods and services they need at the nearest market; of those, 82% attribute this to high prices. Nationwide, most imported food items cost more in August 2022 than the five-year average of 2017–2021, largely due to rising global prices and depreciation of the local currency.¹⁶ Other barriers for respondents include inaccessible markets (19%), unavailable goods (15%), and insufficient quantities (12%). Fewer people say the restricted nature of paper vouchers limits their ability to obtain preferred items. The restricted mobility of old age makes reaching the local market challenging for a few others.

Were you able to purchase all the goods/services you needed at the nearest market?



Why were you unable to purchase all the goods/services you needed at the nearest market?



*Percentages do not total 100% because respondents could choose multiple options.

¹⁵ UNOCHA. 1–24 October 2022. “Somalia: Drought Response and Famine Prevention”.

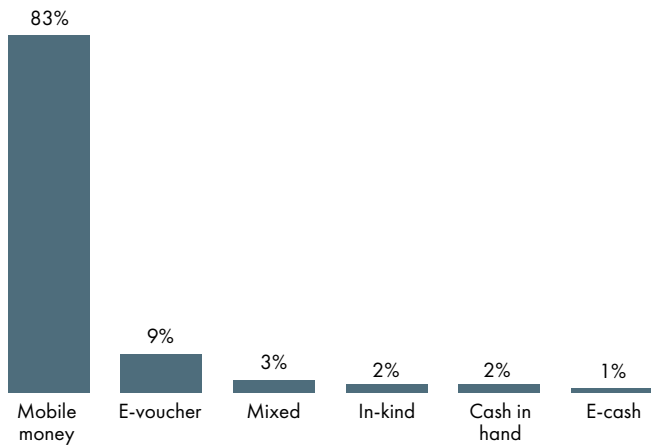
¹⁶ FSNAU. August 2022. “Market Update”.

*Fewer respondents (10%) identified other needs like debt repayment, hygiene, agriculture, and livestock.

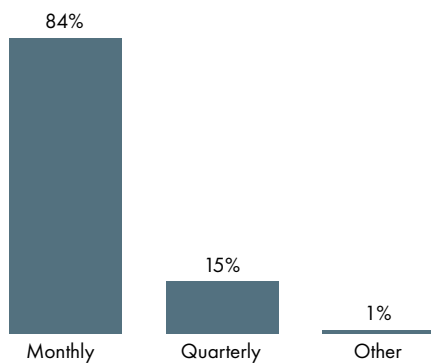
4. People call for more regular cash transfers, for longer

People's preferences should be central to humanitarian agencies' plans in responding to the worsening crisis. When asked about preferred aid modalities and delivery mechanisms, 86% prefer cash, primarily mobile money (83%). In terms of frequency, 84% prefer monthly transfers and 15% quarterly. Most respondents (60%) also prefer smaller transfers for longer, as opposed to larger payments for a shorter duration (21%), while others (19%) have no preference.

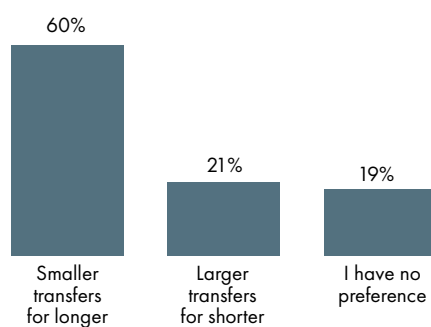
Given a choice, which aid modality would you prefer to receive, should you be selected for a future distribution? (n=1261)



How often would you prefer to receive your cash and voucher transfers? (n=1261)

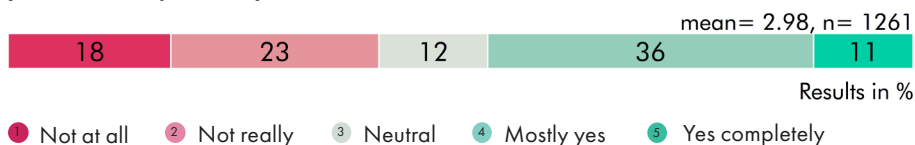


Would you prefer receiving smaller transfers over a long period of time or larger transfers over a short period of time? (n=1261)



Less than half (47%) of our respondents feel the aid they receive enables them to plan for their future. For many decades, Somalia has been subject to prolonged conflict and frequent climate events. This has eroded people’s coping strategies and left them vulnerable to future shocks.¹⁷

Do you think that the cash and voucher assistance you currently receive allows you to better plan for your future?



When asked what they need to better plan, 42% of respondents would like to receive regular transfers over longer durations; 37% request income-generating activities; and 36% want larger transfers. As many CVA providers in Somalia begin to update the value of their transfers in line with the updated MPCA and food transfer values guidelines,¹⁸ committing to more regular and predictable transfers over a longer period remains a challenge. The guidelines state that households targeted with multipurpose cash or food cash transfers should be supported for a minimum of three months. However, a model that provides people with predictable transfers over longer durations could be better realised through links with existing social protection programmes in Somalia, while adhering to humanitarian and do-no-harm principles.

What would you need in order to better plan for your future?

Regular cash transfers for longer durations n = 673



Income generating activities



Cash transfers with larger transfer value



Access to education



Professional training



Access to livestock



Results in %

*Percentages do not total 100% because respondents could choose multiple options.

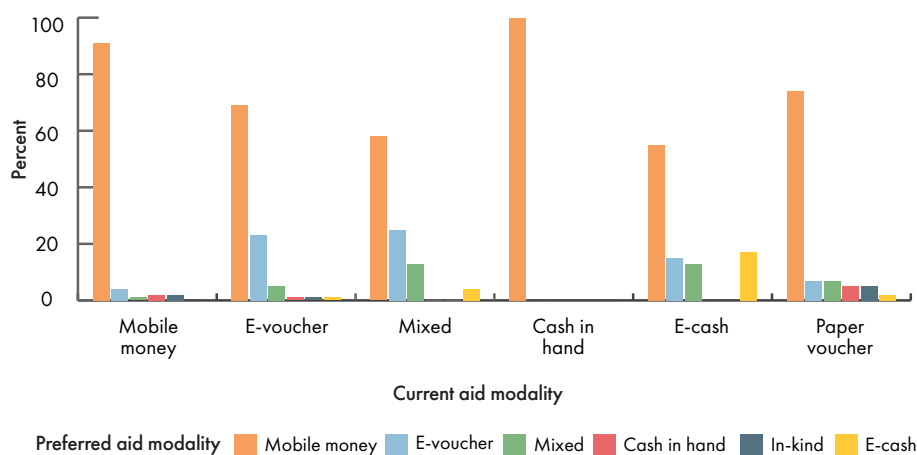
¹⁷ UNOCHA. October 2021. [“2022 Somalia Humanitarian Needs Overview”](#).

¹⁸ Somalia Cash Working Group. September 2022. [“Drought Response CVA Transfer Value Recommendations”](#).

5. Somalia is fertile ground for mobile money

Respondents overwhelmingly prefer mobile money. This includes respondents currently receiving their CVA through other mechanisms. Of current mobile money users, 90% would still prefer to receive mobile money if selected to receive aid in future. Meanwhile recipients of cash in hand (100%), paper vouchers (74%), e-vouchers (68%), people who receive a mix of two or more mechanisms (57%), and e-cash users (55%) would all prefer mobile money as well.

Current versus preferred aid modalities and delivery mechanisms (n=1261)



People say mobile money is easier and safer, and enables them to spend their payments how and when they wish, instead of waiting in long queues or travelling to distribution points. Transfers are discrete and direct to mobile wallets, without others knowing. This ensures people feel safe cashing payments out or keeping them in their wallets. Many respondents also perceive mobile money as less vulnerable to corruption and therefore trust it more than other delivery mechanisms. Respondents in some locations say that mobile money is more widely used than Somali Shillings. This was mostly mentioned by respondents in Beletweyne, Hiran, who say that only “EVC plus”, a mobile money service by Hormuud Telecom, was used in that location, instead of Somali Shillings. According to World Bank data from 2017,¹⁹ 90% of Somalis own at least one mobile phone (a basic handset for the majority), and 83% of those subscribe to a mobile money service. Many humanitarian organisations already rely more on mobile money than other mechanisms to deliver aid, due to its many advantages.²⁰ This is an opportune time to expand the use mobile money in delivering aid, because it aligns with the preferences of many affected people in Somalia.

“Because anytime I need EVC, I can use it anywhere. No one can snatch it from me, my money is always safe.”

— Female, 30, in-camp IDP, Banadir

“This system is very easy, you receive the cash while at home and go out anytime to buy your things.”

— Female, 43, in-camp IDP, Galgaduud



Mobile money is safe and available all the time and everywhere.

— Male, 40, host community, Bari



Mobile money makes it easier for me to manage my finances and I am independent.

— Male, 53, out-of-camp IDP, Middle Shabelle



It is easier not having to queue for a long time.

— Male, 44, in-camp IDP, Banadir



I feel mobile money is secure as the money stays in my phone.

— Male, 48, in-camp IDP, Middle Shabelle

¹⁹ Altai Consulting for the World Bank. April 2017. “Mobile Money in Somalia Household Survey and Market Analysis”.

²⁰ GSMA. 2021. “Developing guidelines for cash transfers in Somalia”.

Respondents who prefer e-cash or cash in hand describe the same benefits of unrestricted cash in meeting a variety of their needs. However, those who prefer cash in hand also explain that they either do not own a mobile phone or do not know how mobile money works. High phone ownership rates never mean that everyone has a phone, and those without tend to include people with limited literacy, or persons living with certain disabilities. This means CVA actors need to carefully consider whether mobile money can adequately reach the most vulnerable.

“It is the only option available to me since I don’t have a phone or bank account to receive money from.”

— Female, 36, host community, Lower Juba

“That [cash in hand] is best for me since I don’t know how to use electronic money.”

— Male, 36, in-camp IDP, Banadir

Only 9% of respondents prefer electronic vouchers, predominantly because e-vouchers allow them to cover their food needs despite rising prices. Many respondents consider e-vouchers safe, as their e-cards receive payments without anyone else knowing, besides being fast and easy to use. Respondents also mention familiarity: many agencies have long used this mechanism in their communities, so people consider them familiar and accessible.

“Foods items are becoming expensive so the little cash transfer cannot cater for the food requirements of the whole family.”

— Male, 36, host community, Lower Juba

Mobile money seems to bridge the generational divide: the over-sixties show an equally high preference for mobile money as younger respondents. There is some variance in displacement status. For instance, preferences for e-vouchers are higher among refugees, refugee returnees, and IDP returnees, although the majority (between 58% and 70%) still prefer mobile money. As our data shows a general preference for mobile money, humanitarian organisations should explore opportunities to expanding its use. Meanwhile, they should try to identify barriers for groups, such as mobile phone ownership or digital literacy.



I understand cash notes only.

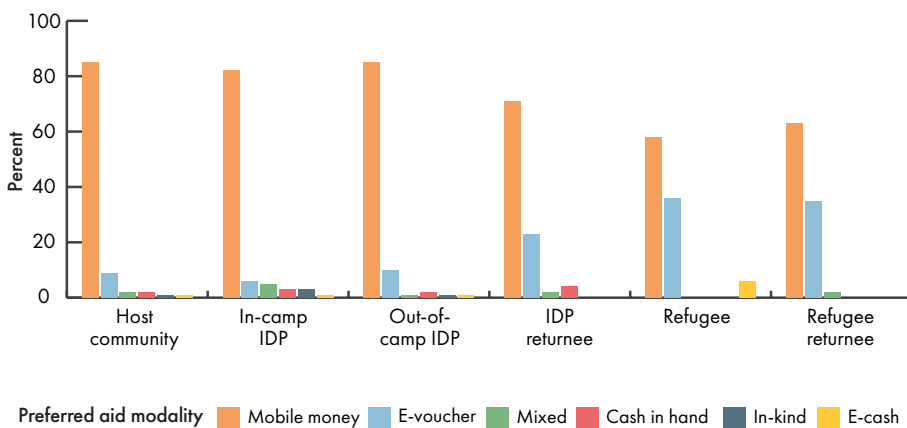
— Female, 36, host community, Lower Juba



Electronic money has so many errors.

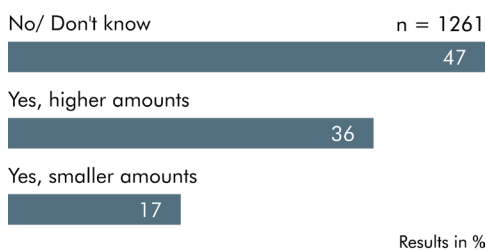
— Male, 45, IDP returnee, Awdal

Preferred modalities and delivery mechanisms by population group (n= 1226)



Respondents are well aware of different transfer values for CVA in different locations: 36% know of other people in their community or in other locations who received higher amounts; and 17% know of people who received smaller amounts. The Somalia CWG and the Food Security Cluster set transfer values based on Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) calculations. Transfer values for Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) are set at 80% of a household's basic needs (full MEB), and CVA specifically for food assistance covers 80% of the Food MEB only. Both are based on regional commodity prices, resulting in transfer values varying per region. Values for MPCA range from \$90 in Lower Juba and Mudug to \$180 in Banadir; and for food transfers from \$60 in Lower Juba to \$130 in Banadir.²¹ Of people who are aware of higher transfer amounts in other locations, 40% have considered moving to those locations to benefit from these higher amounts.

Do you know other people in your community or other locations who receive different amounts?



Have you ever considered moving to one of these locations to receive higher amounts?



6. Sharing assistance so that no one is left behind

Thirty-four percent of respondents share their assistance with people in other households; this is down from 52% in 2021.²² Sharing resources is ingrained in Somali culture, and driven by the urge to help those in need, especially during difficult times when many are suffering.

“If you know the house next to you hasn’t had breakfast or lunch, you are going to share with them and likely the whole community will too. Generally, Somalis have a culture of sharing; whether you have little or a lot, you share because that’s how you get by. Somalis will always share; it’s a cultural practice, it’s how we have been raised and taught.”

— Male, 25, Garowe²³

“The reason people share is to help your family and friends when you are in a better position. If you’ve got cash and your parents are in need, you should help them by sharing.”

— Female, 30, Garowe

²¹ Somalia Cash Working Group. September 2022. [“Drought Response CVA Transfer Value Recommendations”](#).

²² Ground Truth Solutions. February 2022. [“The participation gap persists in Somalia. The Cash Barometer”](#).

²³ Qualitative data collected for Ground Truth Solutions in June 2022 by New Access International (NAI) Somalia. This included 10 in-depth interviews with CVA recipients in Hodan, Hantiwadaag, Waaberi and Shabelle IDP camp in Garowe, Puntland.

However, for some people, sharing is only possible when they have enough to cover their own needs first.

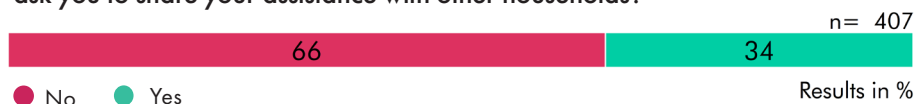
“No [I don’t share]. I’m a single mother. I take care of four children, and I support them. That money was when I was pregnant, and I needed it since I couldn’t work. Those who can afford to share their assistance [are most likely to share], and those who know someone who is in a tough situation and needs the help. It depends on what they can give; not everyone is the same, some people are more generous than others. They share because they have to, because people are in need, and they can’t look away.”

— Female, 38, Garowe

Do you share the cash or voucher assistance you receive with other households?

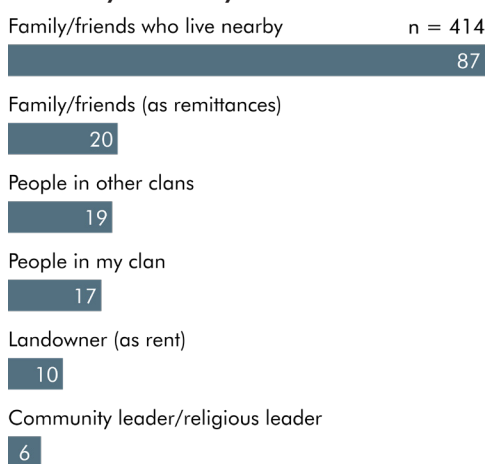


If yes, did anyone in your community (e.g., community leader, village head etc.) ask you to share your assistance with other households?



Eighty-seven percent of people that share assistance do so with family, friends, and neighbours who live nearby, while 20% share through remittances with family and friends who live elsewhere. There is little difference in the proportions of sharing within the same clan (17%) and between different clans (19%). Some respondents mention sharing their assistance with landowners (10%) and with community or religious leaders (6%). Of those who share their assistance, 34% were asked to do so by a community leader or a village head.

Who do you share your assistance with?



*Percentages do not total 100% because respondents could choose multiple options.



People who can share will share. They would share with anyone they feel close to, mostly family but also friends. How much depends on how much they have to share and what their needs are - it's often around 10% of their money, sometimes more. Personally, there are times when I have nothing because I gave most of my assistance away to family and friends who are struggling more than I am.

— Male, 38, Garowe



It's cultural and religious that people help each other by sharing, however little they may possess. The close relatives, family members, and neighbours are the ones I share with.

— Male, 24, Garowe

7. Increasing coverage would improve perceptions of fairness, even if people received less

When asked how aid providers can ensure people do not have to share their assistance with others, some people say they consider sharing a cultural and religious practice and a form of community social support,²⁴ which they will maintain. Others stress that sharing is their way of ensuring more people can benefit from the aid channelled to their community. People say humanitarian agencies should increase coverage so that no one in their community is left behind; alternatively, they should develop a system to track the people with whom assistance is shared, in order to target them with support.

“There’s not much aid agencies can do to stop this, it’s actually better that people share rather than not because it will ensure more people benefit from the assistance provided.”

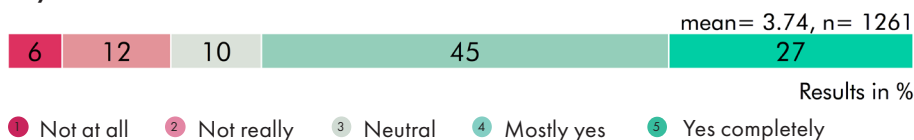
— Male, 25, Garowe

“They would need to support everyone they can so then people don’t feel that they need to share.”

— Female, 38, Garowe

Seventy-two percent of the CVA recipients we spoke to perceive aid as provided fairly. Of those who disagree, 67% feel this way because some people in their community are left out; 35% say aid goes to those not in need; and 31% feel aid is diverted. Most people we spoke to in 2021 called for broader coverage, even if it meant receiving smaller transfers.²⁵

Is the cash and voucher assistance you receive provided in a fair way, without any discrimination?



Why do you think aid is not provided in a fair way?

Some people in my community are left out n = 348



Aid goes to people who are not in need



Aid is being diverted



Other



Results in %

*Percentages do not total 100% because respondents could choose multiple options.



[Aid agencies] should be aware of who people are sharing their assistance with and try to help them if they can.

— Male, 38, Garowe



To me, there are people the NGO registered after us, who receive \$80 every month, since the community is in need and poor. It’s important to target large amounts of people with small cash transfers, otherwise few will get cash and the majority of the community will not.

— Female, 30, Garowe

²⁴ Qualitative data collected for Ground Truth Solutions in June 2022 by New Access International (NAI) Somalia. This included 10 in-depth interviews with CVA recipients in Hodan, Hantiwadaag, Waaberi and Shabelle IDP camp in Garowe, Puntland.

²⁵ Ground Truth Solutions. February 2022. “The participation gap persists in Somalia. The Cash Barometer”.

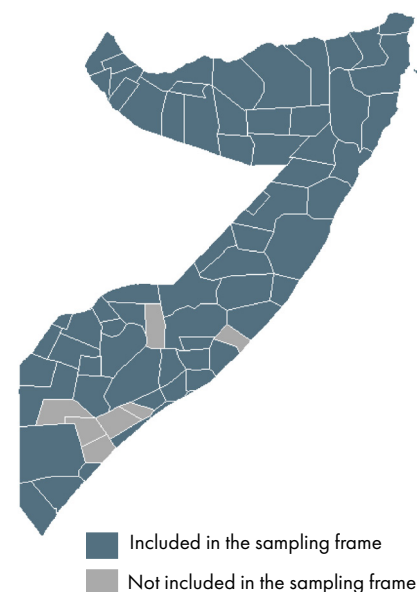
Next steps

This report is currently being workshopped with communities, whose recommendations will be published in a separate bulletin.

Methodology

We designed the survey to cover a large proportion of the cash and voucher assistance (CVA) receiving population in Somalia in a representative manner, considering locations and gender as well as the age group distribution of CVA recipients. Data on locations where CVA was distributed was collected from individual aid agencies, which according to the Cash Working Group dashboard from April 2022²⁶ account for more than 70% of all CVA delivered. The sample was stratified by state (the three states in Somalia being South Central, Puntland, and Somaliland). A gender quota ensured balanced representation between men and women. To prioritise accuracy of country-wide estimates, we allocated the sample proportionally according to the size of each state. The final sample sizes amounted to 171 for Puntland, 151 for Somaliland, and 939 for South Central.

We then selected the following 47 locations within these states, according to probability proportional to size.



South central (n=939)

- Wajid Town, Waajid (32)
- Kurdamac, Banadir (1)
- Omar Fiyaska Mch, Banadir(34)
- Shimbirale, Banadir (26)
- Weydow, Banadir (26)
- Xirsi Ruug, Banadir (14)
- Qorof IDP, Mogadishu (93)
- Abore IDP, Baydhaba (25)
- Bardaale, Baydhaba (27)
- Bula Data Rural, Baydhaba (28)
- Horseed, Baydhaba (25)
- Howlwadag, Baydhaba (30)
- Towfiq, Baydhaba (24)
- Wadajir, Baydhaba (25)
- Huurshe, Cabudwaaq (29)
- Wabari, Cabudwaaq (35)
- Cadado Town, Cadaado (29)
- Bula Garas, Baardheere (23)
- Buula Hodan, Baardheere (26)
- Horseed, Belet Xaawo (29)
- Tuulo Amin, Belet Xaawo (26)
- Waberi, Belet Xaawo (25)
- Kabasa IDP, Doolow (26)
- Bacaad Buko, Belet Weyne (26)
- Howl Wadag, Belet Weyne (26)
- Bulu Burto, Bulu Burto (25)

- Dudu, Kismaayo (27)
- Farjano, Kismaayo (24)
- Fuuma, Kismaayo (26)
- Hawo Tako, Afgooye (26)
- Badda Cas, Jowhar (25)
- Hantiwadag, Jowhar (26)
- Horseed, Jowhar (25)
- Calanley IDP, Gaalkacyo (25)

Puntland (n=171)

- Sanfarow, Bossaso (26)
- Shabeele IDP, Qardho (25)
- Eyl Nugal, Eyl (29)
- Qarxis, Eyl (25)
- Sunijiif, Garoowe (15)
- Laas Caanood, Laas Caanood (25)
- Laas Caanood Far Xaskule, Laas Caanood (26)

Somaliland (n=151)

- Sheikh Ahmed Salaan, Borama (25)
- Sheikh Ali, Borama (26)
- Waaberi, Borama (25)
- Shangale b, Buuhoodle (25)
- Caasha Cado, Owdweyne (25)
- Raamaale, Sheikh (25)

²⁶ UNOCHA. No date. "Cash Based Programming in Somalia".

At site level, interviewers used a random-walk approach, visiting each n th dwelling, n being calculated based on the number of CVA recipients in the locations and the sample size. This random walk approach could not always be implemented in a precise manner since the exact location of CVA recipients within the villages is unknown.

Weighting

Overall results are weighted based on the size of the three states in terms of CVA recipients, based on data provided by individual CVA providers as noted above. Post-stratification weights were applied to adjust for age group and gender, based on the demographics of the people-in-need population in Somalia, as specified in the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO).

Precision of estimates

We used the package “survey” in R to calculate margins of error, specifying the survey design as outlined above. Margins of error for questions asked to all people surveyed range between 2.9 and 9.1 (with a mean of 5.8 and a median of 6) percentage points, noting that precision varies from question to question according to sample size. In order to calculate these margins of error, we have to assume probability sampling. Note that for this survey, we could not strictly adhere to the main feature of probability sampling – that each individual has a known probability to be included – at site level. Given that there is no comprehensive sampling frame available with all existing CVA recipients in Somalia, we assume that the chosen sampling design is a reasonably close approximation to a probability sampling design in this context.

Data collection

The survey instrument was designed by Ground Truth Solutions and reviewed by the Somalia Cash Working Group and other key actors funding or implementing CVA activities in Somalia. Survey questions were translated into Somali, programmed into SurveyCTO, and reviewed by experienced enumerators working for Researchcare Africa. The survey was then piloted to ensure that the questions were comprehensible and that translations were accurate and easy to understand. Data was collected by Researchcare Africa in August–September 2022 via face-to-face interviews using tablets and mobile phones. Ground Truth Solutions monitored the ongoing data collection remotely and provided feedback to enumerators on a daily basis

Qualitative data

We complemented our quantitative findings with qualitative data which our partner, New Access International (NAI) Somalia, collected in June 2022. This included ten in-depth interviews with cash and voucher recipients in Hodan, Hantiwadaag, Waaberi, and Shabelle IDP camp in Garowe, Puntland.

Limitations

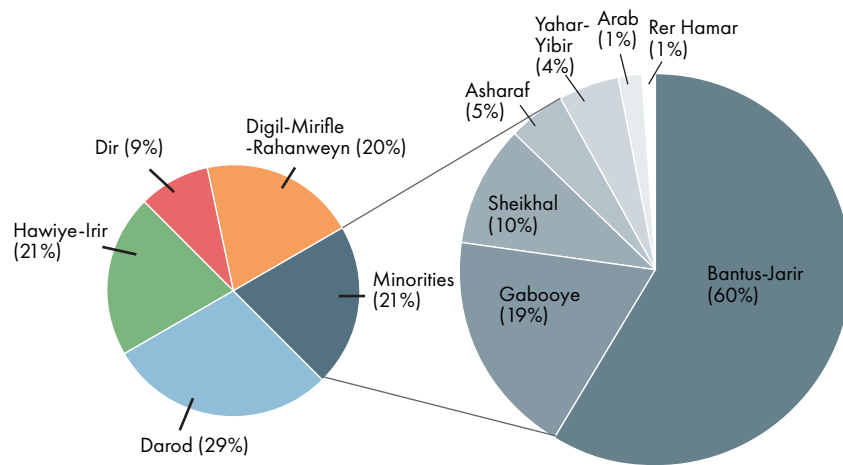
In Somalia, the sampling frame comprised of data from the Cash Working Group, the Food Security Cluster, and the World Food Programme, who are the major CVA stakeholders in Somalia. While the sampling frame accounted for roughly 70% of CVA recipients in Somalia, perspectives of CVA recipients of other CVA providers whose interventions are not captured by the Cash Working Group dashboard are not represented.

We were unable to obtain data on recipients of Social Protection CVA, and so the sampling frame contained only humanitarian CVA recipients. Nevertheless, around 50% of respondents reported also receiving CVA from Social Protection programmes.

Some of the locations that were randomly selected for the surveys were not accessible due to insecurity, mostly in South Central Somalia. Replacement locations were selected using the method described above. The locations replaced included Siigale, Busley, Balcad (Bula Doonka), Rooble, Dhuur, Berdale, Reebay, Wardheer, Tawakal, Balan baal, Godwaraabe, Jeexdin, Salax, Jowhar (Geedo Barkan), Shahda, Washaqo, Shiidaale, and Tuulo Dhuubey.

Data collection was conducted between 8 am - 5 pm, during which time, many men go out to seek for work (mainly casual labor). Thus, our sample includes more females (54%) compared to males (46%). This was accounted for using post-stratification weights.

A note on clan affiliation



Of all the CVA recipients we spoke to, 71% felt comfortable identifying their clan heritage. The majority belong to one of the four main clans known in Somalia²⁷: Darod (29%), Hawiye (21%), Dir (9%), and Digil/Mirifle/Rahanwen (20%). The remaining 21% said they belong to a minority clan including Bantus (60%), Gabooye (19%), Sheikhal (10%), Asharaf (5%), Yahar/Yibir (4%), Arabs (1%), and Rer Hamar (1%).

²⁷ UNHCR Somalia. No date. "[Genealogical Table of Somali Clans](#)".

²⁸ ACCORD. December 2009. "[Clans in Somalia](#)".



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