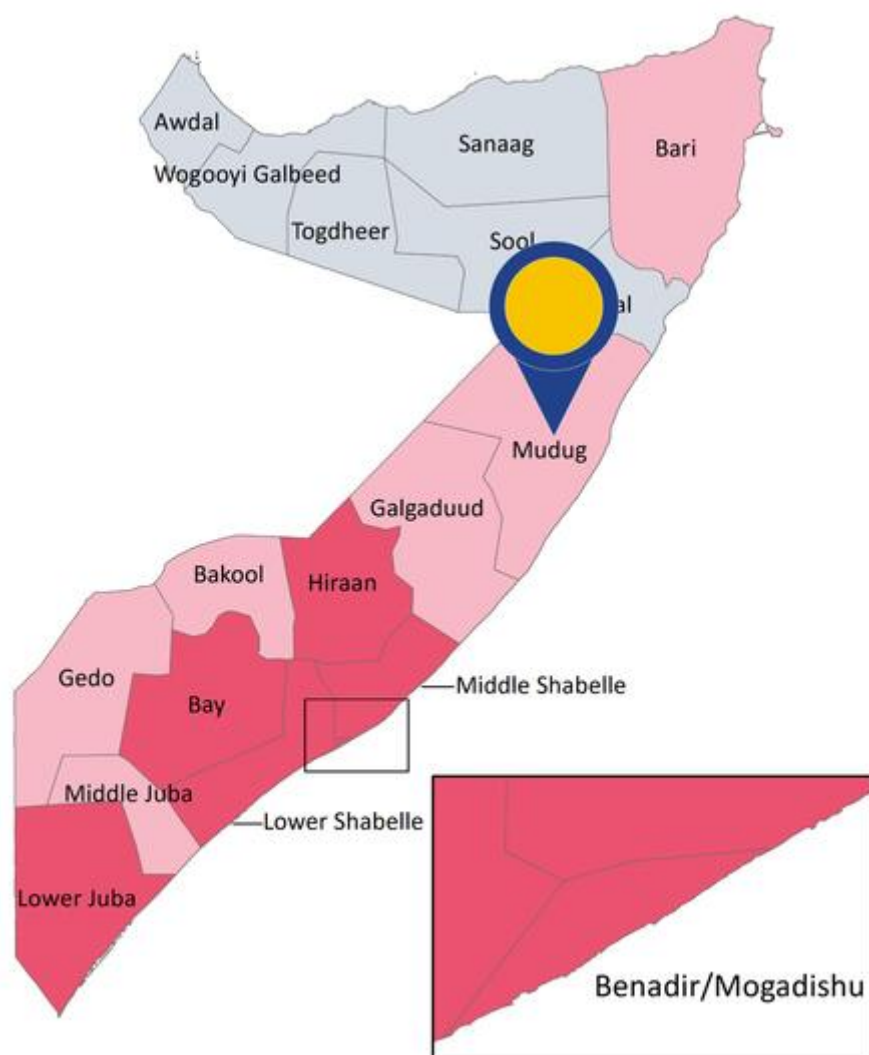


Mudug

COMMON ANALYSIS

Last updated: June 2022

The situation in Mudug should be seen in light of the situation in the neighbouring region of Galgaduud, and Nugal (in Puntland).



General information about the region and possible points of strategic interest

Mudug region is divided between Galmudug and Puntland; the latter controls the northern half of Mudug. The town of Galkacyo, located in the western part of Mudug is also split up between Galmudug (south section) and Puntland (north section).

Mudug consists of five districts and Gaalkacyo is the regional capital.

In the south, Mudug is mainly inhabited by the Saad, a Habr Gedir (Hawiye) sub-clan, which is also the dominant clan in the area. The north Mudug is mainly inhabited by the Omar Mohamoud, a Majerteen (Darood) sub-clan, which is the dominant clan in the area.

In 2014, UNFPA and Somali authorities estimated the population of Mudug region at 717 863 inhabitants.

Background and actors involved in the conflict

Southern Mudug

In southern Mudug which is controlled by the Galmudug administration, the main actors are Al-Shabaab and the Saad clan, along with Galmudug and the FGS security forces. It is to a large extent contested by Al-Shabaab, when not fully controlled by the group. The various clans inhabiting the area (Saad is the main one) are resisting Al-Shabaab's expansion. However, Al-Shabaab has recently been reaching for the first time the Saad area as well as expanding its control/influence in the area around and beyond Baadweyne, Hobyo, etc.

The local administration of Galkacyo is very loose, however, the two sides of the town administration (Galmudug's and Puntland's) have not experienced any major clash since 2016. This cooperation has also led to the dismantling of the various Al-Shabaab cells in town. Still, in recent years, assassinations allegedly backed or orchestrated by Al-Shabaab have been reported in the city.

Clan disputes have also been reported in the region.

Northern Mudug

In northern Mudug which is controlled by the Puntland administration, Al-Shabaab presence and related activities are increasing along and across the border with southern Mudug. Within this context, Mudug's regional governor was killed in May 2020, along with a few other targeted assassinations.

Mudug's northern part is affected by the long-standing clan contentions. These competitions from the rural areas often spill over to Galkacyo.

Nature of violence

Al-Shabaab was the actor accounting for around 24% of the reported security incidents, with the majority of these involving the Military Forces of Somalia, followed by incidents involving civilians and then different clan militias as well as police forces. The main types of Al-Shabaab related incidents were armed clashes followed by remote-controlled explosives. Indicatively, in June 2021, Al-Shabaab militants attacked a military base in the town of Wisil killing 17 soldiers and 13 civilians. Other incidents attributed to Al-Shabaab included IED explosions near a stadium, at an army base and at a local militia's military base. Civilians were also among the casualties.

Around 23% of the reported security incidents were related to unidentified armed groups. The majority of these incidents involved civilians followed by incidents involving the military forces of Somalia. The main type of these incidents involving unidentified armed groups were attacks on civilians and remote-controlled explosives.

Among others, security incidents related to clan conflicts do not always receive local media attention and hence might go under-reported in Somalia.

Incidents data

ACLED recorded 105 security incidents (an average of 1.3 security incidents per week) in Mudug region between 1 January 2020 and 30 June 2021. Out of those incidents, 43 were coded as battles, 21 as explosions/remote violence and 41 as violence against civilians.

Geographical scope

During the reference period, security incidents occurred in all five districts, with the largest overall number being recorded in Galkacyo (78 incidents).

Fatalities among civilians and non-civilians

In the reference period, ACLED recorded a total of 230 fatalities in the region. Compared to the figures for the population in the region as from 2014, this represents 32 fatalities per 100 000 inhabitants.

Displacement

Between January 2020 and May 2021, PRMN reported an estimated 38 000 new displacements from Mudug. For 2020 and 2021, conflict and insecurity were the reason for 10 000 cases.

Further impact of the armed conflict on the life of civilians

Infrastructure such as roads, waste management and water supply were described as poor and their state exacerbated by years of conflict.

The work of humanitarian aid organisations was burdened by access incidents and violent acts against staff members.

Looking at the indicators, it can be concluded that indiscriminate violence is taking place in the region of **Mudug**, however **not at a high level**.

Accordingly, a **higher level of individual elements** is required in order to show substantial grounds for believing that a civilian, returned to the territory, would face a real risk of serious harm within the meaning of Article 15(c) QD.

[Main COI reference: [Security 2021](#), 2.5.2; [Actors](#), 7.5]