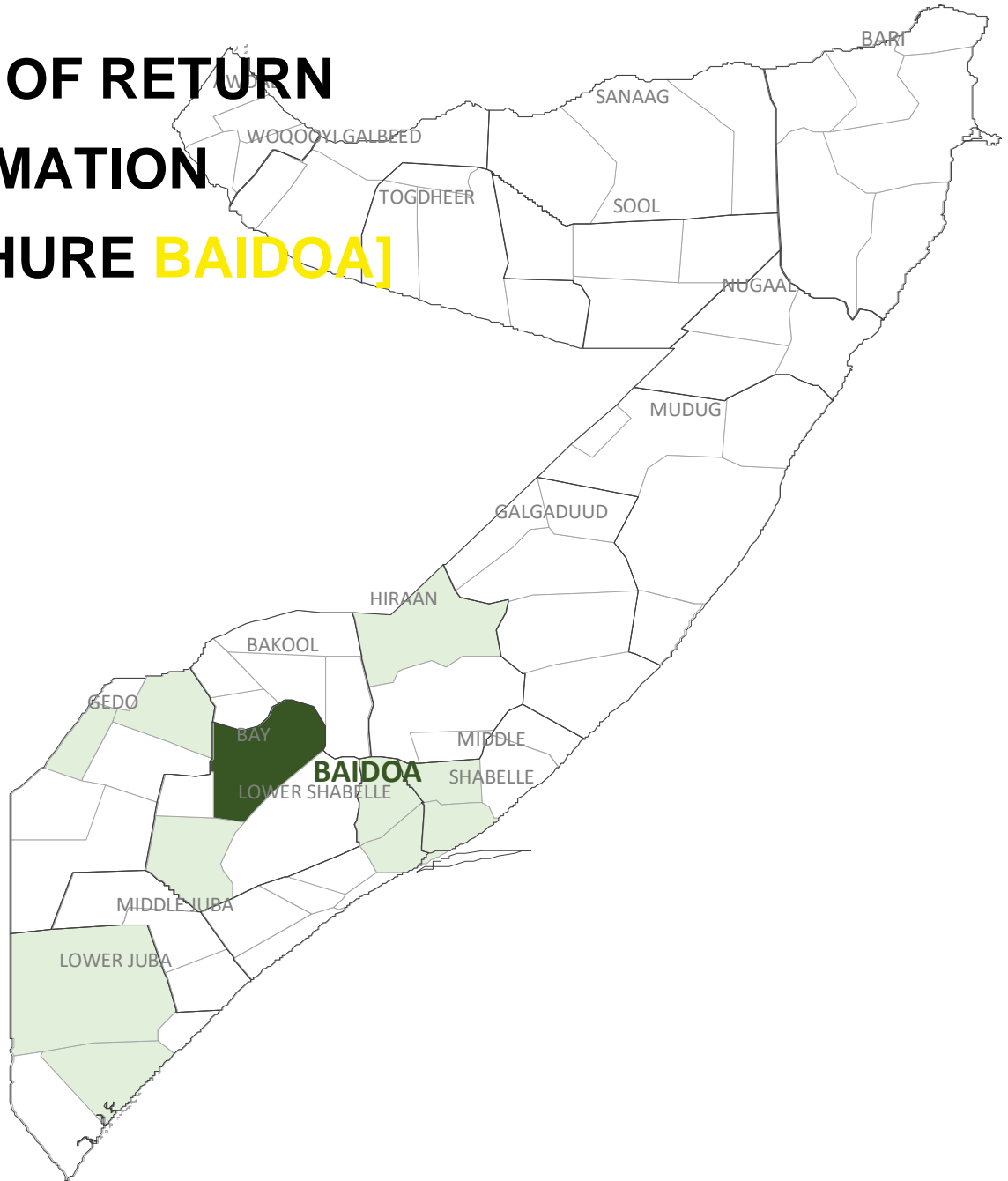


[AREA OF RETURN INFORMATION BROCHURE **BAIDOA**]

2020



This brochure is provided by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in coordination with partners in Somalia. The information is to provide a general overview of situation in areas of return, access to assistance and services, livelihoods and protection for Somali refugees considering voluntary repatriation.

The information contained in this brochure is subject to change due to operational complexities including insecurity, accessibility and funding for services and activities in Somalia. Numbers may vary from other reports due to retroactive changes being made, based on new data provided.

Refugees considering return or already in the repatriation process are encouraged to follow up on information in this brochure at Return Help Desks and Transit Centres in the camps and at Reception Centres in Somalia

Overview

Baidoa is the interim capital city of South West State of Somalia (SWSS). It is situated approximately 250 kilometres west of Mogadishu and 240 kilometers southeast of the Ethiopian border. Baidoa town has four main quarters/villages - Berdaale, Horsed, Isha and Hawl wadaag - with each quarter further subdivided into six sections. Recently the four main quarters were further divided into 10 quarters, some of the new quarters are Waaberi, Daru salam, Wadajir, Adaada and Towfiiq. The population of Baidoa town is approximately 300,000 according to UNFPA census in 2014, the city is situated at the centre of one of the most densely populated areas of Somalia. It is an ethnically and culturally diverse town, with many local residents originating from other parts of the country. Baidoa is traditionally inhabited by the Digil and Mirifle (also called Rahaweyn) clans. The Ormale, Ajuran and Wacdan are amongst the smaller clans found in this area. There is a diverse range of services and facilities in Baidoa town such as telephone, money transfer, electricity and water services provided by private companies. The town has health facilities provided by humanitarian actors, government and private companies. Also, public and private education centres and one main market located in the centre of the city.

Security

Baidoa town is relatively secure with a functional regional administration in place and law enforcement agencies providing police patrols and security services. Only local Non Governmental Organizations may have restricted access within 15 kilometers outside Baidoa including villages such as Bonkay, Salbooy, Rebooy, Inskoy, Bulla Jaai and other small villages. Somali National Police (SNP), South West State of Somalia (SWS) Police and army often conduct uninformed patrols while Somali National Armed Forces (SNAF) and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) forces conduct security patrolling after serious attacks and incidences.

The security situation in the general area remains volatile. Al-Shabaab maintains the capability to undertake frequent hit-and-run attacks against political and military targets in town and surrounding areas that might result in civilian casualties, such as the twin explosions in October 2018. There have also been sporadic incidents of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and ambushes against SNAF/AMISOM in IDP sites. Recently, 2 SNA soldiers were beheaded in Bonkay junction. Petty crime has also been reported including shelter break-ins.

Al-Shabaab presence still impacts transportation of humanitarian supplies and humanitarian access outside Baidoa town including kidnapping of aid workers. Main roads to and from Baidoa, Mogadishu and Luuq are mainly under the control of Al-Shabaab. The road to Dinsoir and Xuddur are still insecure and fully remains under Al-Shabaab control. In 2020, the road connecting Baidoa to Bardaale has been restricted to public transportation. As a result, the economic activity of the livestock market in Bardaale has been forced to stop by Al-Shabab.

Displacement

There are 359,994¹ internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Baidoa with more than 80 per cent arriving in 2017 due to drought and conflict and a further 58,000 IDPs arriving in 2018. As of 2020, there are 435 IDP settlements in Baidoa with Hanano and ADC areas

¹ As of August 2019, CCCM Baidoa Sub-Cluster verification.

being the largest cluster of IDPs. From these sites, 10 are currently monitored by UNHCR. Most of the arrivals in 2017 came from Dinsoor and Qanqax Dheere. Wajiid, Xudur, Tiyeeglow and Buur Hakaba are other major departure regions. In 2020, due to the pressure of Al-Shabab there have been reports of displacement from Tosweyne to the Host Community in Baidoa. The vast majority of IDPs reported not owning the land on which they are living in and 30-40 per cent fear the risk of eviction. Relationships between host community and IDPs are generally good. There are a number of agencies providing humanitarian assistance.

Health

In Baidoa, 1,266 cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI), 421 cases of Bloody Diarrhoea, 1,431 cases of obstructive airway disease, 1,491 cases of Malaria and 354 cases of Measles were reported in the first 7 months of 2018. Baidoa was the district with most reported cases of measles in 2018 although the number of cases has fallen in recent months.

The current drought has affected nutrition with 42 per cent of children moderately malnourished, 13 per cent severely malnourished and a further 29 per cent at risk in 2018.

Administration

Administrative Structures

The SWS and Baidoa District Commissioner are in charge and primarily support the supervision of aid agencies, reception of returnees, new internally displaced and provision of security service. Further, the South West State Commission for Refugees and IDPs support in the reception of refugees and returnees in collaboration with district and regional authorities. National Police oversees security at IDP sites.

Transport Options

Baidoa is serviced by an airport and connected by road to other parts of Somalia although along some routes Al-Shabaab has been reported to have kidnapped travellers or demanded money for safe passage. The roads connecting Baidoa town to IDP settlements on the outskirts remain in bad condition due to recent flash flooding in September 2019.

Banking Services

Dahabshil and AMAL are the main banking services and also provides micro-credit with guarantor. Also, a mobile money transfer system exists in Baidoa known as EVC plus through the Hormuud Telecommunication Company. There are three mobile network companies (Hormuud, Nationlink, Somtel) in Baidoa. Hormuud has coverage across the country (Somalia) and provide internet services. Nationalink has recently stop operating in Baidoa. Somnet provides both, sim card and internet services. In general, mobile network is reliable, except when communication is cut off during military movements.

Reintegration Assistance²

Assisted returnees are briefed on the current return and reintegration assistance at Integrated Return Help Desks in Kenya, in the transit facilities and at the Reception Centres in Somalia.

Assistance upon arrival and return protection package

At the way station/transit facilities in Somalia, UNHCR and partners support the following services:

- Verification and registration;
- Initial 3-day accommodation and 3 meals per day with possibility of extension if need be on case-by-case basis;
- Issuance of mobile phones with pre-registered SIM card;
- Primary medical care/screening/referrals;
- Security update;
- Information sharing on the available services, how to access them including the return package, and hotlines for further information/clarification if needed.

Returnees receive reinstallation grants and subsistence allowance through UNHCR and benefit from livelihood/reintegration activities through partners in Somalia based on needs assessments. The National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) is the overall body responsible for return and reintegration from the Federal Government side. UNHCR's partners providing assistance include National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI), Jubaland Refugee and IDP Agency (JRIA), South West State Commissioner for Refugees and IDPs (SWSCRI), Alight (formerly American Refugee Committee – ARC), Intersos, WFP, DRC, Coopi, and Mercy Corps. Return and reintegration assistance currently includes the following:

- One-time reinstallation cash grant of USD 200 per person on arrival³ (regardless of the age).
- Monthly subsistence allowance for 6 months, starting from the second month after arrival, to cater for other needs (including medical) will be delivered through AMAL bank existing in the area of return as follows:
 - HH size 1-5: to receive US\$200.00 per household;
 - HH size 6-10: US\$300.00 per household;
 - HH size: >10: US\$400.00 per household;
- Core relief item kit (blanket, plastic jerry cans, soap bars, sleeping mats, plastic sheets, cooking pot and kitchen utensils), depending on family size as per below breakdown. This assistance is either provided in cash through the bank or in-kind.
 - A family size of more than 5 persons gets one (1) additional NFI kit, and a family size of more than 10 gets additional one (1) more NFI kit
- 6-month food assistance (provided through WFP SCOPE card, USD 15 person/month).
- School fees/education grant for children at primary school age:

² Note that all return and reintegration support is subject to change and persons being supported to return will be briefed further on current return and reintegration assistance at Return Help Desks, Transit Centres and at Reception Centres in Somalia. In particular, due to funding limitations some of the reintegration support are not fully covered.

³ Kindly note that this may take from 7 to 10 days due to the verification and the processing through the payment cycle.

- Up to monthly USD 25 per child for the entire academic year (this is conditional upon the child being enrolled in school in the return area).⁴ The payment is made directly to the school of the child's attendance.
- One-time additional education assistance for scholastic material (currently \$30) per academic year per child attending school is provided directly through the UNHCR implementing partners to the parents.
- Specific vulnerabilities of returning HHs are addressed through the referral pathways (such as on SGBV, psycho-social support etc) in the various return locations using the local network of service providers. Available mobility devices can be given on needs basis after assessments. In addition, particularly vulnerable returnees can be included into community-based programmes and livelihood projects.
- Provision of information regarding services available, either through UNHCR or partners, as well as the additional livelihood & self-reliance activities as well as skills trainings provided by UNHCR partners. Examples: provision of agricultural seeds and tools; provision of donkey carts as an income-generating measure.

Access to Services & Assistance

Shelter

Most returnees live in rented shelters with only a few shelter actors supporting construction of houses in the past. A rented room costs approximately USD 30 per month. Currently wood remains the primary structural material used for main shelter by more than half of all households. Other building materials include metal and cement. In terms of roofing, close to half of all houses used iron sheets for roofing. An average of 2.7 people shares a house.

As of January 2020, poor shelter conditions remain in Baidoa, with women and children being the most affected. Shelter assistance is quite challenging due to limited funding from the General Sub-regional Shelter Cluster. To overcome this situation, UNHCR has advocated for land and recently received a land from SWS government of 75,000 square meters are planning to initiate the construction of permanent shelters for 150 returnees. This includes a community centre, school and health facilities.

Education

There are no early childhood development centres in Baidoa. For primary level, there are reportedly 31 primary schools with 7 being in IDP settlements (although there differing reports with exact numbers). Most of the other schools are located in Horsed, Hawl wadaag and Berdalle villages. 90 per cent of the schools charge school fees between USD 4 and USD 6 per child. Out of school students also have an opportunity to reintegrate as there are three non-formal education schools managed by NRC.

For secondary education in Baidoa, the number of schools are 20 according to the Ministry of Education., out of which 16 are private and four are public. They are located in Berdaale, Horsed and Hawl wadaag villages. Secondary schools costs between USD 8 and USD 12 per month.

⁴ As for those children who never attend school coming in the middle or end of the academic year will have to wait until the beginning of the next academic year.

At both the primary and secondary levels, there is no uniformed curricula with some schools following Kenya curriculum and others follow Saudi curriculum. There are also several Quranic schools in the area charging between USD 5 to USD 10 per month. However, only 35 per cent of children reportedly attend school with barriers including quality of education, lack of infrastructure, resources and inadequate monitoring.

There are four vocational training centres for youths provided by humanitarian agencies including NRC, INTERSOS, Warshiikh Rural Development Organization (WARDO), Southwest Better Life Organisation (SBLO) and in 2019, Mercy Corps Skills provided in these centres include tailoring, henna dying, tie and dye, electricity, plumbing, computer literacy, welding and mechanic. However the number of spaces at the centres remain very limited. There are also temporarily/project-based run and some individual funded vocational training centres like Volunteers for Relief and Development (AVORD) and South Somali Youth Organization (SSYO).

There are six privately universities running in Baidoa: University of Southern Somalia, Bay University, Ganaaane University, Baidoa International University, Zamzam University, Upper Jubba University. Plasma University. Average semester fees are USD 250. SIMAD University has also established a branch in Baidoa pending the official launching.

Health

There are two medical centres in Baidoa, which provide basic health service free of charge including treatment for tuberculosis. There are 19 maternal and child health care centres in the district which provide basic medical services free of charge and are supported by humanitarian organisations including Deeg-Roor Medical Organization (DMO), Gargaar Relief and Development Organization (GREDO), Salama Medical Agency (SAMA), SOS, Save the Children, World Vision International (WVI), ICRC, INTERSOS and WHO. There are also two main hospitals – Bay Regional Hospital and BayHaw Hospital –which provide some services free of charge. Access to health care still remains a challenge in the area

Almost 60 per cent of households reported that they had access to Stabilisation Centres and Outpatient programmes for nutrition in July 2017 although only approximately one-quarter reported access to supplementary feeding or infant and young children feeding programmes. More than half of all households reported increased difficult in accessing nutrition services in the last three months. The rate of access to nutrition services is lower amongst IDPs although there are 12 centres across the IDP settlements.

Water & Hygiene

During the 2018 drought, access and availability of potable water in Baidoa became a challenge affecting host community members and the majority of the IDP population who are supported with water trucking by humanitarian organisations. Most of the potable water sources are privately owned with the cost of one drum of water at 48,000 Somali Shillings (USD 2). Most of the public wells/water points are dried up due to drought. Due to the rainy season,

In 2019 with the rainy season increased in the water level was reported, however the cost of water drums remains the same, due to the rise of population in Baidoa.

To increase the access of potable water to the population of Baidoa, UNHCR in 2019 constructed 2 boreholes including two generator rooms, in Boonkay and Bay-Haw areas in Baidoa. This initiative is already benefitting over 5,000 individuals and enhancing

coexistence between IDPs, returnees and Host community. Both boreholes were handover to the community through the Ministry of Water and Energy.

The increasing number of IDPs coming to Baidoa has had an impact on sanitation. IDPs use communal latrines and half of all latrines are considered unhygienic. IDPs in general have less access to latrines and resort to open defecation. There are limited public awareness campaigns on hygiene and sanitation mostly in IDP settlements.

Food Security & Livelihoods

Food security situation in this area is deteriorating, since many people were displaced to Baidoa due to poor rainfalls and crop failures in the past. This led to widespread food insecurity among IDPs with more than 50 per cent having poor food consumption. As of January 2020, crops and farms are currently being infected by the invasion of Locust. In general, more than two-thirds of households in the area report lack of resources to buy food as their main challenge and another 25 per cent cited lack of food items.

Despite the existence of five functioning food markets in Baidoa, over half of the IDPs walk for over one hour to reach the market as there is no food market in south-west Baidoa where many IDP settlements are located. The prices for different food prices per kilogramme are as follows in Somali shillings: Red Sorghum at 8,000 (US\$ 0.4), white maize at (USD 0.45) 9,000. Other food commodities include red rice which is (USD 0.75) 15,000, wheat flour at (USD 0.7) 14,000 and vegetable oil at (USD 1) 25,125 per litre. Prices vary considerable across seasons.

The main livelihood opportunities in Baidoa are cereal production (mainly sorghum) and livestock (goats, sheep, camels and cattle) with many of the region's economic activities centred on these sectors. Day labour is the most common form of income for most households with this often being manual labour such as construction. There are in general limited employment opportunities in the areas with the host community often favoured in employment.

Protection

Access to Justice & Judiciary

The judiciary system in the area is functional. Civilian cases are handled by District courts. Nevertheless, majority of the communities rely on elders to resolve both criminal and civil cases. Sharia courts are managed by local administration under SWS regional state that runs the justice system in Baidoa and surrounding villages. Accessing the district court is USD 50 and regional court is USD 150.

Traditional justice system, Xeer, is still the most used to resolve customary domestic and clan issues. Religious and clan leaders remain custodian of the traditional justice system that seems still adequate to address disputes. Occasionally, the federal government tasks military from Mogadishu to handle cases related to firearms and militias. UNHCR in coordination with The Somali Women Development Centre (SWDC) conducts awareness-raising sessions on legal education and domestic violence. It also provides legal advice, legal assistance and formal/informal representation related to SGBV incidents.

Child Protection

IDP children remain highly vulnerable in the area with the effect of drought and livelihoods, meaning that they are often the only source of livelihood for their families and forced into begging and child labour. Although there are no exact figures, forced recruitment of children is reported to have increased in recent times in areas controlled by Al-Shabaab with 500 incidents reported in the last two months. Additional reports say that AS has instructed each family with more than one child in the areas they control to bring at least one of their children to join the militant group. Local authorities and some protection actors in Bay region have reported that in March 2019, a total of 500 children fled Bananey, Berdaale and their surrounding villages. Even though there are no reports of forced recruitment of children as combatant by SNAF, they use them for information gathering, spying, logistics, checkpoints and in military barracks.

Some agencies support child victims with basic services including, medical treatment, transportation and psycho-social support (PSS) services including KANAVA Youth Center, Somali Children Welfare and Rights Watch (SCWRW), Save the Children and WVI. There are two orphanages run by faith-based organizations. INTERSOS conducts a family tracing and reunification programme for unaccompanied and separated children. There is also an interim care centre for children formerly associated with armed groups.

GBV Prevention & Response

There are many cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Baidoa in particular in IDP settlements and Wadajir area where refugee returnees live in high population. While reporting of SGBV cases has improved recently, it still remains low due to fear of stigmatisation and retaliation. A few number of humanitarian organisations provide service to SGBV survivors such as medical treatment, transportation and PSS but limited. They include SCWRW, KANAVA, Isha Human Rights Organization (IHRO), IRMAN, DMO and SAMA, SWDC, SSWC, WOCCA and INTERSOS.

Housing, Land & Property (HLP)

HLP issues can be addressed through the formal justice system, sharia courts and Xeer. Traditional Xeer dispute resolution is favoured by the community because it is faster and easier to access.

NRC conducts HLP trainings for IDPs, refugee returnees, host communities, local authority, religious leaders, youth and women. The trainings help returnees to be able to reclaim their land and property left behind. Community Dispute Resolution (CDR) committees also allow returnees to claim their HLP assets. NRC has seconded HLP focal point at the office of Baidoa mayor, who will be coordinating IDPs and returnees access to the legal provided institutions and provide information session in collaboration with the humanitarian partners. Currently, The Land for Peace project is currently being implemented in Baidoa. The project aims to increase awareness of land administration systems; expand land administration systems and operations; and provide training to government officials and people involved directly in these systems.

Civil Documentation

Returnees are able to access civil documentation. In Baidoa, civil registry offices were established and civil documentation including birth certificates, national IDs and passports are issued. The Department of Immigration and Naturalization under the Ministry of Interior of the Federal Government of Somalia has a regional office in Baidoa. Returnees are able to access passports in Baidoa through going to security for clearance and get certificate of good conduct and after a short interview the application is placed which takes a week or two. The fee ranges between USD 200 to 230. NRC also provides information sessions and counselling for the returnees on the procedures to access these documentations in the various return communities.

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