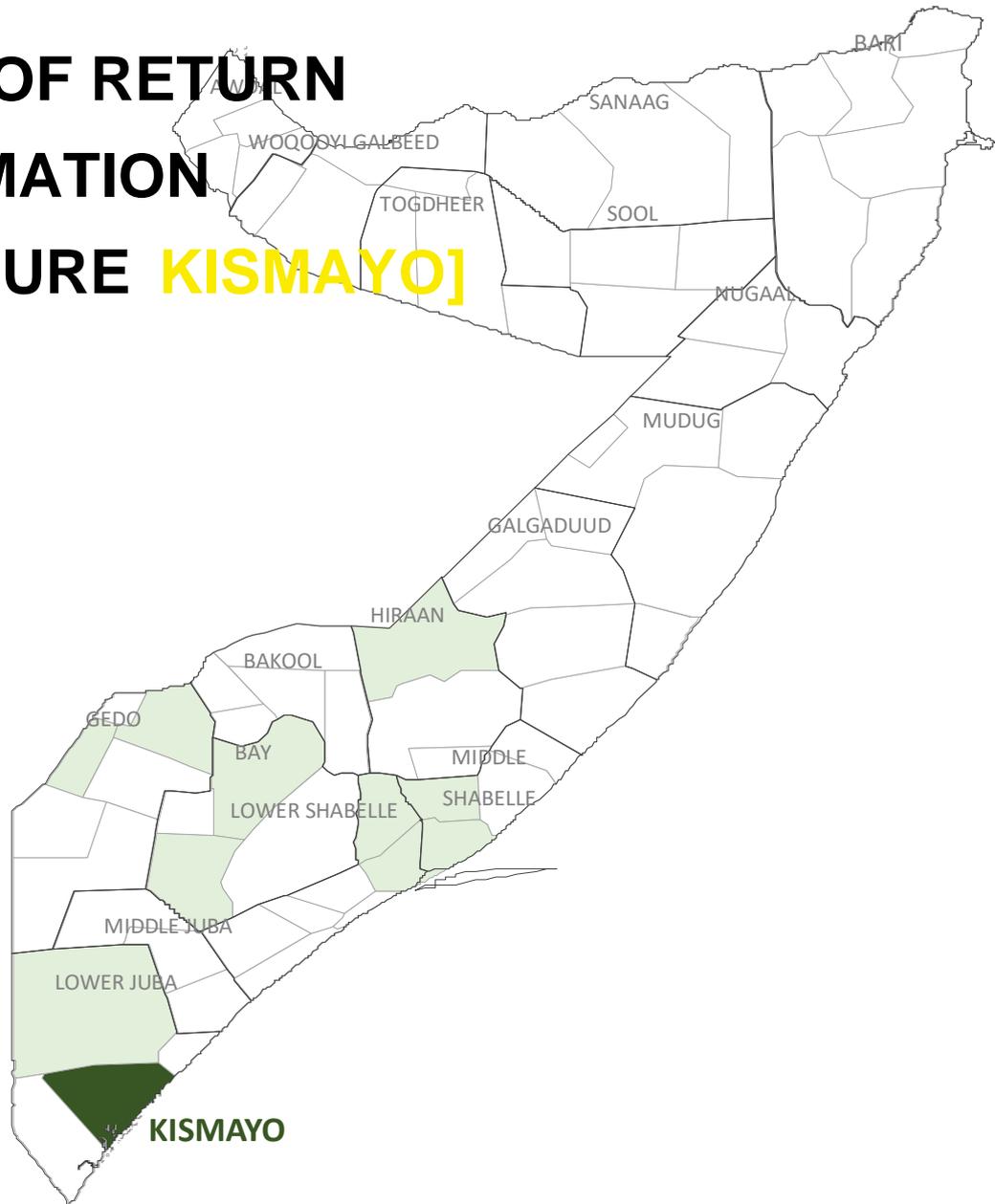


# [AREA OF RETURN INFORMATION BROCHURE **KISMAYO**]

**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

Kismayo is a port city in Lower Juba, Somalia with an estimated population of 320,000. It is the commercial capital of the autonomous Jubaland region with a large seaport. The town is situated 528 kilometres (km) southwest of Mogadishu, near the mouth of the Jubba River. The major cities in Kismayo are Kismayo City, Goobweyn, Yoontoy, Bulugadud, Abdila-birole and Beerhani. Kismayo has a semi-arid climate and is hot all year round, with seasonal monsoon and irregular rainfall. There are internally displaced people (IDPs), refugee returnees and host communities living in Kismayo. The clans are diverse including Ogaden, Harti, Mirifle (Rahanweyn), Marahan, Galija'el, Sheekhaal, Awarmieh, Jareer (Bantu) and Bajun. The largest clan dominating the city and surrounding areas is the Ogaden.

## Security

Jubaland administration is in control of most urban areas with all security related issues with the support from African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM). AMISOM plays a role in supporting governmental structures to implement a national security plan, training the Somali security forces and assisting in creation of secure environment for the delivery of humanitarian aid.

There are also intelligence groups, police, military, marines and traffic police in Kismayo. All security forces are under the Jubaland Ministry of Security. Joint AMISOM and SNA forces cover the outskirts of Kismayo city for general defence.

Kismayo has one main police station and 15 other security posts. The security posts are under the command of police officers who provide protection to the general public, including to their properties. The police department performs a variety of duties, including patrolling, investigating crimes, general protection and defence.

Security situation is relatively less volatile in the urban centre. The most common security incidents are related to crime but assassinations and armed conflict by/with Al-Shabaab reportedly remain on the outskirts of Kismayo city. There has been certain extent level of inter-clan tensions due to competing over resources and the complexity of clan composition in the area, which also involve gunfight and acts of violence.

The stability of Kismayo depends on a fragile mix of political-, militia- and business actors that share a common interest – generating and using income from the 'taxation' of port and airport activities. The control of these resources is highly politicised and contested. There is a very strict control of new arrivals in the city through an extended network of informants. Because of this, newcomers including returnees, can be initially perceived as a potential threat.

## Displacement

There are an estimated 10,787 households living in 139 IDP settlements, identified by a joint exercise conducted in Kismayo through CCCM partners in August 2019. IDPs live in 4 sections or zones: Dalxiska, Galbeet, Fanole and Central. Each section has several IDP sites; Dalxiska is composed of 42 sites, Galbeet 43 sites, Fanole 28 sites and Central 26 sites. The displacement is usually as a result of interlinked drivers such as conflict, insecurity, as well as drought (and related lack of livelihoods) in the region including people fleeing due to tax imposed to the riverine residents on their farm products by Al-Shabaab. No major influx has been identified throughout the year.

## Health

Presence of severe Acute Respiratory illnesses, Acute Watery Diarrhoea, bloody diarrhoea, obstructive airway diseases and malaria have been reportedly identified. An outbreak of measles was also reported in 2018 including 43 cases in Kismayo district. Lack of access to clean water and sanitation are the main causes of disease outbreak in the area. Since the current cholera outbreak in December 2017, Kismayo is one of the most affected areas in the country with 0.6% accumulative Case Fatality Rate (CFR) reported.

## Administration

### Administrative Structures

Jubbaland State of Somalia has full responsibility in the area. The administration is led by the State President and two Vice Presidents. There are also 19 ministries and 75 members of parliament as well as local police force (JSIA). There is the Office of the Governor and an Office of the District Commissioner, the judiciary, and different ministries. There is also the Jubbaland Refugees and IDPs Affairs under the Ministry of Interior whose mandate is to support internally displaced and refugee returnees.

### Transport Options

Both air and road transport options are available in Kismayo. There are three main thoroughfares that connect Kismayo to other areas of the country including a highway linking Kismayo to Mogadishu. Travel by road is generally considered risky as some areas outside of Kismayo town are still under the control of Al-Shabaab who have set up checkpoints such as on the Marka-Barawa-Kismayo road.

There are no restrictions on movement and in general people are moving freely in and out of Kismayo but there are often interviews related to the security on arrivals and departures. Checkpoints around the town are generally manned by Jubaland police. It is not normal to walk into Ceymiska, presidential buildings and the port without the possession of identity cards or any association with business. Similarly, people should be cautious when entering police posts or other government institutions and comply with the security forces if asked to be searched.

The average cost of road transport per person for some 10km is USD 15. Kismayo Airport is located approximately 10km from the city and commercial flights are available to/from Mogadishu at USD 120 per person. Flights began to operate to Afmadow and Dhobley. Direct flights from/to Nairobi are currently halted.

### Banking Services

Money transfer agents locally known as '*Hawala*' are available in Kismayo. There are no international banking systems in Kismayo and the *Hawala* banking systems are only used locally.

# Reintegration Assistance<sup>1</sup>

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 arrival<sup>2</sup> (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:

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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).<sup>3</sup> 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

The type of shelters in Kismayo are usually corrugated iron sheets and the ones for IDPs often made up of polythene paper bags, boxes, ragged tents and discarded scraps metals and sticks. These shelters do not protect inhabitants from rain, cold, insects and small animals. There is currently very limited shelter support in the area and the most pressing risks related to shelter are potential eviction, lack of access to safe non-saline water, lack of latrines, overcrowding and fire hazards. UNHCR currently has no shelter project in Kismayo.

Most people living in Kismayo rent houses which range from USD 15-35 per month. Buying plots of land or houses range from USD 1,500-200,000.

### Education

Kismayo town has 12 primary schools, most of which are privately owned with fees of around USD 12 per pupil. Key barrier to education is the high costs of education. The quality of the primary schools has improved over time with local and international organisations supporting different schools in construction, rehabilitation and paying teacher incentives. However, a lack of formal curriculum and insufficient training of teachers continue to impact the overall quality of education. There are some agencies providing informal education services like NRC and CARE through accelerated basic education programs with the aim to reach children who missed the opportunity to have education and support their reintegration into formal schools, but spaces are limited

There are nine secondary schools - Ganane, Fanole, Farjano, Juba, Barwaqo, Mohamed Jama, Ahmed binu hambal, Khalid binu walid, Guulwade. All secondary schools are privately run with registration fees of USD 12 and then regular tuition fees. The challenges when it comes to the secondary education is low salaries for teachers and lack of standardised syllabus.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

For vocational training, a number of vocational centres are available supported by international organisations such as CARE and NRC. The centres offer different courses that include tailoring, carpentry, tie and dye, electricity and beauty. However, spaces are limited and dependent on funding.

There are four private universities – Kismayo, Kismayo Lower Juba, Banadir and Plasma located in Farjano and Fanole villages. The registration fee is USD 25 with additional regular tuition fees. There are some courses conducted on business, health, language and Sharia law although the quality of teaching is potentially low.

## Health

The general hospital in Kismayo serves the public but faces challenges like lack of resources, understaffing, low salary for the workers, the quality of drugs and overall poor health facilities. Kismayo General Hospital provides primary healthcare while the other three hospitals are private (Daryeel, Shifaa and Alrahma) - with an initial registration fee of USD 5 and then often high medical costs limiting access for the population. American Refugee Committee (ARC) and Muslim Aid are providing primary health care clinics with no payment but subject to the NGOs funding. It is reported households spend average USD 12 on healthcare per month.

## Water & Hygiene

In Kismayo there are two modern water companies namely CAAFI and Riyaaq. Of those two companies CAAFI is the most advanced and supplies water to town residents who can afford to pay the high rate of water. This is also used by government workers. The Riyaaq company supplies medium and small bottles for drinking and these are consumed by companies and kiosks where they are sold at retail price. The main source of drinking water reported by households is unprotected wells followed by protected wells with hand pump and water kiosks. In January 2018, 21 water kiosks and 13 shallow wells were identified in the area. 90 litres of normal water cost approximately USD 41 in many locations. Despite this, almost 40% of all households reported problems either quantity or quality with their main source of water in the area.

62% of households report that they have access to communal latrines, other 16% have access to private latrines with 22% of reporting no access to latrines. Less than half of all latrines are reported as hygienic. The sewage system in Kismayo and the general town plan is also not sufficient with lack of good pipes leading to water lying stagnant and breeding mosquitos.

## Food Security & Livelihoods

According to recent assessments the overall situation in relation to nutrition has improved with 31% of children at risk of malnutrition, 21% moderately malnourished and 4% severely malnourished though children in IDP settlements remain more at risk. Access to nutrition services in the area remains a challenge for many with 35% of households reporting no access.

Lack of access to resources to buy food and lack of cooking fuel and utensils are reported as key barriers to food security. Local authorities have stated that food shortages are the main humanitarian concern. Al-Shabaab's ongoing blockade of commercial routes in and out of the Juba regions is reportedly resulting in rising food prices, particularly in Kismayo where food prices have gone up because of the influx of refugee returnees and drought affected populations. Price for 1kg of maize is USD 0.6, one for 1 kg of rice is USD 0.7, and 1 litre of milk is US 2.0.

The main livelihood for the population is pastoral activities, farming and fishing. Casual labour at the port and airport are the major sources of employment for many households in Kismayo town. Other livelihoods include casual labour in construction and cash for work.

A pre-export quarantine and inspection of livestock facility was officially opened by Jubaland President, Ahmed Mohamed Islam 'Madobe', on 24 August 2017. The facility as the first of its kind in Jubaland, is expected to expand the revenue base through income and employment generation as well as to contribute to food security, given the vital role of livestock in the livelihoods of the Somali people.

## Protection

### Access to Justice & Judiciary

The Interim Jubba Administration established courts operating under Sharia law which are overseen by the Ministry of Justice. Customary law (*Xeer*<sup>4</sup>) is used to settle most disputes and only complicated cases are taken to the Islamic courts. The local judiciary system includes higher courts though residents mostly use religious scholars and elders to solve disputes. The barriers are higher expenses and the lengthy process of the court case resolution.

### Child Protection & Welfare

Child protection threats include child labour, sexual violence and child recruitments into armed groups. Some organisations working in the area of responsibility of child protection includes American Refugee Committee and Sedhuro.

There are three orphanages/schools run by faith-based organisations including Towfiq Welfare Society in Fanole Village. ARDI Organization also provides reintegration services for children associated with armed forces and groups.

Family tracing services are available with free of charge by the Somali Red Crescent Society and KISIMA Peace and Development.

UNHCR has been in discussion with Save the Children to re-open a help desk at the Kismayo Waystation to support persons with specific needs (PSN) and children returning to Somalia. The help desk (if opened subject to funding) will provide psychosocial counselling, facilitate family reunification for separated children and follow up as well as implement provision of targeted NFI support.

### GBV Prevention & Response

Sexual and gender-based violence (S/GBV) is allegedly underreported in the area. S/GBV survivors can receive medical help at Kismayo hospital while agencies like American Refugee Committee (ARC) provide other services such as psychosocial support, legal assistance, case management and NFI on need basis. There are three GBV stop centres including Bula Abliko MCH, Sinai MCH and Midnimo village.

<sup>4</sup> *Xeer*; is a traditional justice system which is still the most tool used to resolve customary domestic and clan disputes within the community. Religious and clan leaders remain custodian of the traditional justice system that seems still adequate to address disputes, It ends up in mediation and the exchange of compensation known as (*Xaal iyo Xumeen*).

## Housing, Land & Property (HLP)

Land is sensitive in Somalia. Communal land ownership is in practice and this has been one of the causes of conflicts as one clan rejects other clans' use of their land for grazing. NRC is working with both local and return communities as well as local authorities to enable returnees to claim and exercise their rights.

NRC is working with Jubbaland administration on how returnees and IDPs can obtain land titles. Returnees who left the country and have lost their title deeds can go to the district court to file a case and try to claim their land.

### Civil Documentation

There is a registry in Kismayo where legal identity and civil documentation may be issued to all residents. Passports are accessed by going to security forces for clearance where persons receive a certificate of good conduct and subsequently proceed to the district office to be given birth certificate after a short interview and the application will have processed and will be received within a week or two. Jubaland authorities plan to begin the process of issuing ID cards in the future but this has not started yet.

The below table notes the current costs of various legal and civil documentation in Kismayo:

Somali National Passport	Marriage certificate	Birth certificate
USD 230	USD 50	USD 55

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